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CARDIFF ROAD, BARRY INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

More than meets the eye! Pages 20-22

BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update... Pages 24-25

Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

ST DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATIONS AT LOCAL SCHOOL



ABOVE: Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sger was very active with St David's Day celebrations and also at the Celtic Festival in the Grand Pavilion at Porthcawl. See more pictures on page 8.

BUS DRIVER IS ROBBED IN NANTYMOEL

POLICE are investigating, after a bus driver was robbed in Nantymoel on Wednesday, February 27.

The incident occurred at 8.45pm in the turning circle at the bottom of Commercial Street.

A passenger boarded the First Cymru bus and threatened the 41-year-old driver,

demanding his mobile phone and cash. There were no others on the bus at that time. The man fled with a mobile phone and a quantity of money. He is described as white, with a 'skinny' face. He was wearing a black bobble hat and had a black scarf over his face.

Detective Constable Melanie Deere from Bridgend CID said: "This was a very disturbing incident for the victim and we

want to hear from anyone who may have any information concerning this robbery.

"Behaviour such as this will not be tolerated and I am appealing to anyone who may have seen anyone behaving suspiciously in the area."

Contact DC Deere at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518 or 101 free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Maesteg attack

A 26-year-old local man has been arrested by police in Maesteg, after a 54-year-old woman walking along Bridgend Road was assaulted and dragged to the ground by an assailant shortly after 8am on Monday (March 4).

Members of the public intervened and detained a man until police arrived shortly afterwards.

Anyone with any information should contact Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, 101, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 and quote reference 62130065734.

Police appeal over burglary

POLICE in Bridgend are investigating a burglary which occurred sometime between 4pm on Friday, February 22, and 3.30pm on Friday, March 1.

Access was gained to a flat on Plumley Close, North Cornelly, and a number of possessions were removed.

These include a black Tevion 32" television, a silver coloured microwave oven with built-in grill and a black glass halogen oven. Detective Constable Rhys Gronow of

Bridgend CID said: "We want to hear from anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area of Plumley Close in North Cornelly during the last week of February.

"Have you been offered any of these items for sale or do you know anyone who may have been? Please get in touch with us."

Anyone with information concerning this offence is asked to contact Detective Constable Gronow at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 and quote reference 62130062952.

Celt Fest brings music to streets of Porthcawl



ABOVE: They were singing on the streets of Porthcawl last week - find out why, and see more pictures, on page 6.

Pocketful of Presents Re-launch Party

Please join us on

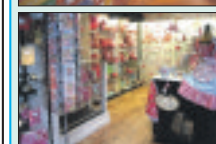
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Norway and Wales in musical harmony

ON Sunday March 17, at St. Mary's Church, Noltan, Bridgend, a joint concert in aid of the Mayor of the county borough of Bridgend's charities sees a visiting choir from Norway join forces with the Maesteg Gleemen.

The Sandefjord Male Choir is from a town on the south-east coast of Norway, approximately a two-hour drive from the capital city, Oslo. Sandefjord has roughly 40,000 inhabitants and has a rich cultural and musical environment. Their musical director, Harald J. Stickler, husband of Sian Major, is looking forward to performing with the Gleemen, under the leadership of Alun Hodges.

Several well known artists from the county borough of Bridgend are taking part including Angharad Roberts, studying music, especially the harp, at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff. Meinir Ann Thomas, who is on a home visit from Australia with her family, was a singer with the Swingle Singers, has been successful in eisteddfodau, but is now a freelance professional singer in Sydney, Australia.

Rhydian Jenkins has won the Urdd and National Eisteddfodau. Cór Aelwyd Porthcawl has had success in eisteddfodau; Bethan Rees graduated recently in music at the Cardiff University of Wales specialising in flute and also taking part are two violinists who have recently been made members of the

National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain - Macie Wallis and Rhianwen Keirll.

The host for the evening will be Rev Michael Komor - Rector of Coity, Noltan and Brackla.

Local Charities who will all benefit are: Emmaus south Wales, Bridgend, breast cancer at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Stroke Association and Bridgend County Riding for the Disabled.

The concert commences at 7pm and tickets £5 are available from M. Major (01656 664105) or members of the charities named.

'What, there's no projectionists?'



Madeleine Moon MP with Owen Gould, Odeon Cinema manager

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon had a shock when she was invited to take a behind the scenes look at the Odeon Cinema in Bridgend.

She reported: "I was expecting to see projectionists operating the films and was a little surprised to learn that there are no longer any 35mm prints - and no projectionists."

"The films now come as hard drives and are operated by computers, with adverts coming in

by satellite. Over the last 18 months, it has all become digitised."

Manager Owen Gould explained that digitisation improves the film experience, there is no quality deterioration over time and the hard drives can be reused, an added environmental and sustainability benefit.

"There was one old projection camera left which was about to be transported to Germany and dismantled for parts. I must admit I felt a little sadness at an end of an era."

Bridge results

ON February 21, Porthcawl Bridge Club held a heat of the Welsh Bridge Union simultaneous pairs, in which clubs throughout Wales play the same pre-set hands (by special invitation, a club in Malaysia also took part).

Players' scores are compared with those

from all the other clubs, effectively giving a competition of over 100 pairs.

The winners in our club - Trish Saunders & Pat Cogbill - took fourth place in the national rankings, in which 105 pairs took part.

RESULTS:
February 23: First - Jean Moss and Wendy Williams; Second - Terry Dolan and Kate Craven.

February 25: First - Trish Saunders and Pat Cogbill; Second - Gary Williams and Pat Cogbill.

February 28: First - Trish Saunders and Pat Cogbill; Second - Rob Charlesworth and Tony Haworth.

The club meets three times a week - Saturday and Thursday at the Avel-y-Mor Centre, and Monday at the Rest Hotel 7 pm-10.15pm - visitors are welcome at any time.

The next major club event is on March 14, when players will compete for the club ladies' pairs (Gaskell Cup), and club men's pairs (Cornish Cup).

To contact the club, telephone secretary Trish on 01656-785794

Tony Haworth

'Pickle' is in a pickle



ABOVE: Pickle the pussycat.

THE GEM is helping the Cats Protection adoption centre in Bryncethin to find loving homes for their 'guests'.

This week's 'Cat of the Week' is 'Pickle', who has this to say.

"Hello, my name is Pickle and I sadly came back to the centre as my owner had a change in circumstances and couldn't care for me anymore."

"I have struggled being back here and I'm finding it difficult to set-

tle in. The staff have spent a lot of time me and I am starting to come out of myself and enjoy having some fuss and attention."

"I need to be back in a normal home environment for my true loving personality to shine."

"Will someone please consider adopting me?"

Contact Cats Protection, Bridgend Adoption Centre, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ. Telephone 01656 726 621 or e-mail bridgend.mana@cats.org.uk

Who wants to be an arts reviewer?

PEOPLE over 50 who have dreamed of becoming an art critic will get their chance in Bridgend.

Co-ordinated by BCBC's arts and community development team, the 'Third Age Critics' scheme offers them expert guidance to achieve their goal.

Participants will make their first foray into the world of reviewing at the Wales Millennium Centre, with Cole Porter's musical romantic comedy *High Society*.

The centre is donating a limited number of tickets for the opening night on Tuesday, March 12, with further tickets being made available dur-

ing the run.

Funded by the council's Older People's Strategy, which aims to improve the wellbeing of older people through encouraging them to be mentally and physically active.

The budding reviewers will enjoy a free workshop with a professional arts critic before the performance, with travel arrangements and refreshments also being provided.

They will then have the opportunity to complete their first arts review.

Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC's cabinet member for wellbeing and the council's older people's champion, said: "This is a great chance to test out your critiquing credentials and enjoy an evening with fellow theatre buffs too."

Readers' Letters

IMPORTANT! We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'Stand up for your sport' - GEM reader

SEE that the attack on the Grand National and horse racing has started early this year - it seems the RSPCA are not happy with 40 runners and having John McCrick as the only line of defence on the news item, does not help.

Enough is enough - the powers that be should stop apologising and pandering to the likes of the RSPCA, who have lost their purpose and have become the mouthpiece of people who know very little about horse racing.

The RSPCA wasted thousands of pounds on a prosecution for fox hunting, instead of spending money on the welfare of animals.

It is the police who should prosecute if any laws have been breached - so it should be the people in charge of horse racing who should take the lead in horse welfare and stop pandering to the likes of the RSPCA and other organisations.

I would urge all who love horses, owners, punters, jockeys etc to stop giving donations to the likes of the RSPCA and give to a new or existing charity that deals directly with horse welfare.

Why continue to support the RSPCA, who want to stop all jump racing? Make no mistake, their continued attack on the Grand National is just the start.

They dislike your sport, but use your donations

COULD YOU TRAIN SOMEONE TO SAVE A LIFE?

HEARTSTART UK, in association with the British Heart Foundation, will launch soon in the area.

We are looking for volunteer trainers to deliver Heartstart courses to members of the public.

If you feel that this is the opportunity you have been looking for to volunteer in your community and help to save lives, email heartstartvaleofglamorgan@gmail.com

Ford Brazel, Scheme director/co-ordinator.

The Quakers and 'gay marriage'

THE ongoing public debate about 'gay marriage' appears to miss the point entirely as far as I can judge.

The present situation is that Quakers, who themselves are largely heterosexuals, like most of us, would want to be able to carry out wedding ceremonies for lesbian and homosexual couples, who wish to enter into a permanent, responsible relationship, which marriage is declared to be, but the existing law prevents Quakers from doing so.

My own opinion is that a change in law would be a great benefit to the couples, and especially to any children they might have. But my own opinion has nothing whatever to do with the

matter of ruling other people's lives. It is not a matter of our approval or disapproval.

The Quakers wish to have a religious ceremony for these couples, which invokes the blessing of Almighty God upon their lives, dedicated to each other.

How can we justify a law which restricts the religious freedom of these good people from following their sincere beliefs?

The law of the land is not there to feed or satisfy my prejudices against anyone, but rather to give freedom of conscience to all citizens, most especially in matters of their deepest faith and social unions, unless I can prove someone will suffer personal damage from the consequences.

Neville Westerman, Brynna.

to kill your sport. Stop committing suicide, stand up for your sport.

I watched the news where three horses in a pen were stunned before slaughter during the recent horse meat crisis. Your aim should be: that no racehorse is sold for slaughter, using money raised by people in racing to give to a new charity, instead of the RSPCA; any prizemoney over £30,000 deduct five per cent; ask bookmakers to make annual donations to ensure and achieve the goal of no ex-racehorse being slaughtered.

I am just an average Joe. I hate fox hunting, would never do it, but I am a city bloke and respect the right that country bumpkins do fox hunt.

It was their heritage, same as I do not understand why some religions are allowed to kill animals as part of their religious culture. Not for me, but again I respect their right to do so.

You do not see or hear of the RSPCA trying to stop animal sacrifice, but they are only too keen for your sport to be banned.

Make no mistake, if you do not act now, your sport will go the same way as fox hunting!

Chris Herring, Barry.

When black and white GIs were kept apart

IN January 2012, The GEM carried a lengthy article about the presence of black US soldiers in the Vale headed 'Remembering World War Two - when black US soldiers were stationed in the Vale'.

Although I did not live in the Vale at that time, my next door neighbour, the late Mrs Morgan, lived on Barry Island, before and throughout the war years.

She remembered the special hut on the corner of Dyffryn Street, wired and connected to the lock gates below to

'blow them up', should an invasion occur.

More pertinently, she remembered the armada of ships that gathered in the 'Barry Roads', ready to sail to France on D-Day.

One Naval ship departing from Barry carried on deck hundreds of American soldiers - black soldiers at the front - then three lines of MPs (military police) and, at the rear, white Americans.

The MPs kept them separate (the American Army was organised in separate black and white regiments then) to stop them fighting each other on the way to liberate Europe!

Christopher Short, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MARCH 14)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
07 Thur	01.47	7.9	14.29	7.7
08 Fri	03.13	8.2	15.47	8.3
09 Sat	04.13	8.9	16.50	9.1
10 Sun	05.12	9.5	17.33	9.5
11 Mon	05.59	9.9	18.20	9.8
12 Tues	06.41	10.2	18.55	10.1
13 Wed	07.17	10.2	19.34	9.9
14 Thur	07.55	10.1	20.11	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Bridgend woman must repay £18,000 benefits

A BRIDGEND woman who defrauded the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) of more than £18,000 has been sentenced to a community order at Cardiff Crown Court.

Kayley Brooks, 26, who had no previous convictions, was also made subject to a supervision order for a year, and was directed to do 150 hours unpaid work.

Recorder Robert Craven said: "You made a significant fraudulent claim, but I also accept it was not fraudulent from the start."

He added that her circumstances had pressured her into making false statements.

Brooks, of Dwynwen, Broadlands, admitted five charges of failing to declare a change in her circumstances.

The Recorder said the offences were com-

mitted between September 2006 and June 2010.

Prosecutor Alex Greenwood, acting for the DWP, said that on August 8, 2011, authorities received an anonymous call indicating that Brooks was not living alone but with a partner.

An investigation began and Brooks initially denied living with her partner, and said he used her address for his correspondence.

The court was told she also wanted to know "... who grassed her up".

She later said that he had lived with her at times but he didn't state this to the authorities in case he left the home.

She also indicated that, at times, they had separated.

Mr Greenwood said that overpayments of benefits totalled £18,004, including

income support, and housing and council tax benefits.

He emphasised that it was not fraudulent from the outset and a repayment plan was now in operation, which involved her receiving reduced benefits.

Her barrister, Ruth Smith, said: "I have to accept that this conduct went on for a number of years. She deserves full credit for her guilty pleas."

She said the family circumstances were difficult, and one of her children was seriously ill.

She added that her partner had not been with her constantly, nor was he working regularly.

"He fully supports her now, and she did not cynically use the money for a lavish lifestyle but simply to survive."

The Recorder said her partner should have borne some of the responsibility.

by AJ SICLUNA

Quiz League round-up

THERE were two matches in the KO Cup and two in the Plate on February 25, it being the semi-final stage of both competitions.

In the KO Cup, the Llangewydd Arms marched on inexorably with a convincing victory over Tyrisha Nomads by 69 points to 51.

The other semi was much closer, with Crown Inn 'A' winning at home to Mackworth Arms by 57 to 52.

In the Plate, Division 1's Tyrisha Royals beat a top Second Division team, Cabo Roche, by 68 points to 44, and the tie between the two Pheasant teams, Poachers and Gamekeepers, ended with the latter being eliminated by 38 points to 34.

Your four weekly

questions:

1. Who led the Scottish forces at the 1297 Battle of Stirling Bridge?

2. Who served as Prime Minister on four occasions and also holds the record for the longest continuous service as an MP at over 62 years?

3. Which American, nicknamed 'Boom Boom' won his only Major at the US Masters in 1992 and also tied for third place at the 2006 US Masters?

4. Which African state has a coastline on both the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden?

A Rudge (for Quiz League)

Answers:
1. William Wallace
2. Gladstone
3. Fred Couples
4. Djibouti

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

Milo's wish for a home



Milo

PROUD Welsh gentleman Milo, celebrated St David's Day with a stroll among the daffodils.

The 12-year-old Pembrokeshire Corgi is looking to enjoy his retirement in a loving Welsh home. If you are interested in offering a home to Milo, or any of the dogs at the Bridgend Rehoming Centre, contact Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725219.

Group offer thanks on retirement

MRS Avril Lake, secretary and treasurer of the Griffin Park Community Centre, Porthcawl for the past 16 years, has retired.

The Griffin Park Community Centre Committee wish to say a huge thanks to Avril for her work and commitment to the centre over those years, and hope she will relax and enjoy her well earned retirement.

The committee has inherited a thriving centre to take forward into 2013.

Rod Colyer, Porthcawl (Secretary)

Rugby star Martyn supports Maesteg's annual 'Walk for Al'

WALES rugby legend Martyn Williams will be the celebrity starter at the sixth annual 'A Walk for Al' on Sunday, March 24, to raise money for the Garnwen Trust.

Martyn will join family and friends of Alex Collins and Bethan Jones to walk the eight-mile route from Maesteg Golf Club over the Garnwen Mountain to Afan Forest Park and back.

The Garnwen Trust was set-up in memory of Alex from Maesteg and Bethan from Porth, who were killed in a plane crash in Thailand in 2007, aged just 22.

The trust has been raising funds to build a multi-purpose residential unit in Afan Forest Park. The specially designed log cabin will enable groups of up to 12 disabled and able-bodied people to enjoy short breaks in the park.

The trust has now raised over £130,000 and secured full planning approval.

Alex's dad Richard said: "We are absolutely delighted to have Welsh rugby legend Martyn Williams starting this year's Walk for Al."

"We hope to make this year's walk the biggest and best yet, and due to the fantastic support we have received

over the last five years, we are really pleased that work on the cabin will be starting in a few months time."

Martyn, who is leading the Velindre Cancer Centre's Kilimanjaro Trek of a Lifetime in September, said: "I met Margaret and Richard at an event last June and was incredibly impressed with their courage and their commitment."

"I'm honoured to be starting the Walk for Al, and hopefully getting some training in ahead of my Kilimanjaro trek."

Alex and his girlfriend Bethan from Porth, both 22, had been four days into a six-month trip when the plane crashed on landing at Phuket on September 16, 2007.

Alex died in the crash and Bethan died 10 days later. The couple met while they were studying at Cardiff University and had been saving and planning for the trip for over a year.

Anyone is welcome to join the walk. Walkers are asked to make a £5 donation or raise a minimum of £5 sponsorship.

To take part in 'A Walk for Al' or make a donation, contact Travella's, Commercial Street, Maesteg, or telephone Richard on 01656 733496. Walkers will also be able to register on the morning of the walk at Maesteg Golf Club from 9am.

LITCHARD PUPILS MEET THE HUMAN CALCULATOR



Scott Flansburg with Litchard pupils.

PUPILS from Litchard Primary School in Bridgend were among those who met 'Human Calculator' and Guinness Record holder, Scott Flansburg, on his recent visit to Techniquet. He was there to launch the World Education Games, a global online event taking place this week.

Scott holds the world record for calculating maths sums faster than a calculator and Litchard youngsters watched him in action as he performed his high-speed maths show, encouraging pupils to enjoy maths and showing them how they can work out difficult maths problems - without the use of a calculator.

He was visiting venues around the UK to inspire children and adults to compete in the World Education Games - three days of literacy, maths and science challenges - to become world champion of champions!

The global online event is organised by education resource company, 3P Learning.

Over 5.9 million students are expected to participate in the event, which kicked off with World Literacy Day, testing pupils' accuracy in spelling, followed by World Maths Day - children competing in measuring arithmetic and numeracy skills.

The games end with World Science Day when children answer multiple-choice questions which require knowledge and reasoning.

Litchard teacher, Joe Williams said: "Our pupils always have a great time at Techniquet, but meeting the human calculator was an extra special treat for them."

"Maths is something pupils tend to either love or hate so it's great for them to see how interactive it can be as a subject - Scott has helped to make maths learning fun!"

Jiving their way to rejuvenation

A new dance programme is quick-stepping its way into community venues across Bridgend County Borough.

Co-ordinated by Bridgend County Borough Council's arts and community development team, the third dance programme offers free classes to people aged 50 and over at Blaengarw Working Men's Hall, Maesteg Town Hall and the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

Funded by the council's older people's strategy, which aims to improve the wellbeing of older people through encouraging them to be mentally and physically active, the classes will cover a range of low-impact dance styles aiming to get participants moving, socialising and having fun.

The professional dance tutors have experience of working with older people, including those with Parkinson's, and can support people with the condition during the classes with stimulating, therapeutic movements specifically

designed to aid its symptoms.

Carers are also invited to come along and watch or join in with the fun.

After the classes, the dancers can join in optional social evenings where they can chat about the new steps they've learned and make new friends.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for wellbeing and older people champion, said:

"Dancing is a great way for older people to keep active, have fun and make new friends."

"Thanks to Strictly Come Dancing, Let's Dance for Comic Relief, and even Gangnam Style, dancing is no longer for the professionals so I'd encourage people to swap their armchair for the dance floor and fox-trot their way to fitness."

If you or someone you care for are interested in joining the programme, contact Guy O'Donnell, Arts Development Officer, on 07977 119074, or by emailing guy.odonnell@bridgend.gov.uk.

Bridgend MP's quiz for Women's Day

MP for Bridgend, Madeleine Moon, is organising a quiz to mark International Women's Day on Friday (March 8).

She explained: "International Women's Day (IWD) has grown over the years to be globally recognised and celebrated across developed and developing countries."

"In some countries it has become an official holiday. Thousands of events across the world are held every March 8 to inspire women and celebrate their achievements socially, politically and economically."

"Every year I endeavour to promote International Women's Day in my constituency

visiting schools and women's organisations."

"This year, I have prepared an International Women's Day quiz, which I hope will be enjoyable and thought provoking, bringing an awareness of what women have achieved and how much more there is to do."

"My aim is to engage and encourage women to make a difference to think globally and act locally, ensuring a bright, safe, equal future for all girls," she added.

"If you would like to arrange a visit to your organisation to take part in the International Women's Day Quiz, contact my constituency office on 01656 750002."

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Volunteers train to save lives at Kenfig Hill



Pictured are the volunteers: Back row: Gareth John, John Hyde, Tristan Daves (St John's Ambulance Training Officer), Gary Chappell, Clive Jenkins, John Reffell. Front Row: Helen Peers, Vicki Hughes, Emma Fernquest.

WHEN a player collapsed during a veterans' game a few months ago, it was fortunate that the Kenfig Hill First Aiders, led by Clive Jenkins, were able to deal with

the situation and resuscitate him.

At the instigation of Clive Jenkins, the Kenfig Hill Committee decided to purchase a defibrillator to assist in similar emergencies.

The first training session for dedicated volunteers has been held under the tuition of the Saint John's Ambulance Brigade. The 100 Club covered the cost of the purchase.

Brothers in snooker final



LEFT: Thomas Day-Davies (left) and Lewis Day-Davies.

AT the Bridgend Youth Academy Snooker final, Cowbridge Comprehensive pupils and brothers, Thomas Day-Davies (14) and Lewis Day-Davies (12) met at Brackla.

Both players won through their group matches and semi-finals to reach the final.

Ex-professional snooker player and former Welsh amateur champion Matthew Farrant coaches youth players every Saturday morning.

For further information, telephone Brackla Snooker Centre on 01656 657900.

Hi Tide Inn hosts Cancer Research event

ON March 23, the local committee will be hosting a spring lunch at The Hi Tide Inn, 12.30pm for 1pm.

Tickets are available from Sue Sharp on 773670 or Diane Jones on 784762 and are £7.

Recent figures released by Cancer Research UK stated that between 2011 and 2012 the amazing amount of £332 million was spent by the charity on research.

The charity's pioneering work has been

at the heart of the progress that has already seen survival rates double in the last 40 years.

In 1960 only one out of ten children survived leukaemia. In 2012 eight out of 10 survived leukaemia, all thanks to research.

Cancer Research UK receives no government funding so every penny raised by local committees and loyal supporters hopefully brings forward the day when all cancers are cured.

DIANE JONES

Forum celebrates best of Welsh on St David's Day

RIGHT: Kevin Green, Ros Evans and David Roberts pictured at the event on March 1.



BRIDGEND Business Forum has hosted its most successful St David's Day business event yet.

A total of 150 business people attended the breakfast event organised in partnership with Rhondda-Cynon-Taf (RCT) Business Club and The Business Network at the Vale Resort, Hensol.

Delegates were treated to an insight into the successes of two of the most inspirational people to come out of Wales in recent years.

Both excel in their respective fields of business and sport.

Self-made multi-millionaire and social entrepreneur, Kevin Green (KGW Ltd) cited hard work and dedication as factors

that led him to become the UK's largest residential property landlord and a multi business owner. Kevin, who is also dyslexic, featured on Channel 4's Secret Millionaire.

David Roberts, CBE is the UK's greatest male Paralympian. He was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of 11 and was encouraged to participate in swimming activities as a form of physical therapy.

David recounted his rise to Olympic status and how he has overcome great adversity in order to reach his goals, earning him numerous gold and silver medals as well as a bronze along the way.

Delegates also had the pleasure of listening to a beautiful rendition of 'O mio babbino caro' (Oh my beloved father) from

Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* by Welsh National Opera Soprano, Ros Evans.

Vice-chair of the Bridgend Business Forum, Ian Jessop, said: "It's fantastic to see so many businesses here today, speaking to each other and networking. There is a real buzz about this event."

"As a business owner myself, I very much value the support that is available to enterprises in Bridgend. It is crucial for any business, particularly in the current climate, to be part of a strong business network. Events such as this are an excellent opportunity to meet other companies, to exchange best practice and share ideas."

YOUNG FARMERS TELL TALE OF A TEEN ANGEL



The cast of Teen Angel.

BRIDGEND YFC have been hard at work preparing and performing for the Glamorgan YFC drama finals.

The finals were held once again this year at the Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot, on February 15.

Bridgend YFC performed the drama *Teen Angel* which was written by D M Larson and directed by Andrew



John. The story was about a girl called Emily (played by Hanna Bertorelli) who had died suddenly in a car crash and was trying to earn her wings to reach heaven.

The story was set in a 1950s diner with Emily's sweetheart Rick (played by Nicolas Rees) heartbroken. Emily helps Rick fall in love again with waitress Grace (played by Gee Johns-Powell) although the evil devil David (played by David Rees) tries hard to destroy the plans.

Luckily, angel Gabriella (played by Catrin Williams) was on hand to keep Emily on track. Finally Emily gains her wings and gets to return to heaven.

Bridgend did well,



gaining fifth place and winning the best technical award for the amazing scenery, props and costumes.

A big thank you to all those who came to watch and cheer us on and to all the members and supporters who helped with the scenery and costumes.

Congratulations to Maendy who came first, and to all the other clubs who competed – you all put on a great show.

Also, well done to David Rees who competed for Bridgend YFC in the 'time to shine' competition.

Bethan Evans

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Howard Watkins – 65 Darren View, Maesteg – 25 per cent crown reduction of two ash trees and five sycamore and remove weather damaged branches.

Mr Keith Barnard – St Clares School, Clevis Lane, Porthcawl – Program of works to various trees within school grounds.

Mr Colin Hurley – 17 Cwrt y Coed, Brackla – Reduce height of two beech trees, crown reduce horse chestnut and remove limb and possibly fell one horse chestnut.

Mr Clive Thomas – Land rear of 28 Ffordd Priordy, Sarn – Pollard oak trees at four metres.

Mr Colin Morgan – Glanrhyd, Heol Faen, Maesteg – Convert bungalow to four-bed house with double garage and driveway. Mrs Tracy Vicker – Lower Flat, 12 Bridgend Road, Llangynwyd – Change

of use from bedsit to waiting and tea room for beauty hairshop next door.

Mr W Rees-Hole – 26c Sturmi Way, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle – Change of use to gym.

Mr John Pitt – Ty Gwyn, Spencer Road, Coity – Single storey extension.

Mr R Evans – 4 Dol Wen, Pencoe – Single storey extension to rear and porch to front.

Tondu IV Limited – Land south west Maesteg Road, Tondu – Relax standard condition to extend time to implement P08/156/OUT by three years.

Mr A Hawkins – Plot 30, Porth y Castell, Coity – Change of house type to include conservatory to rear.

Heronbridge Special School – Ewenny Road, Bridgend – Erect canopy over existing playground within school.

Mr and Mrs D and G Morgan – Land

south of Haulfryn, Ffordd y Gyfraith, Bridgend – Remove Condition 1 of P/12/578/RLX relating to providing screening to site.

Mr Gary Davies – Plot A5-1, Blandy Terrace, Nantymoel – New four bedroom detached house.

Mr Gary Davies – Plot A5-2, Blandy Terrace, Nantymoel – New four bedroom detached house.

Mr T Docherty – 14 Glan-y-Parc, Bridgend – Single storey rear extension.

Mr G Griffiths – Rear of 79 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – Construct two storey detached property comprising of two self contained apartments.

Mr N Clear – 31 Pen yr Heol, Pen-y-Fai – Second storey extension to bungalow to create two storey dwelling and conservatory/hall/WC extension to rear.

Emily is supporting her sister Kate in 'The Race for Life'

A mum of four from Llantwit Major is running the 'Race for Life' event in Bridgend in support of her sister who has breast cancer.

by TIM CHAPMAN

mined to do her bit to generate funds for research.

She said: "I'm not a person who has done much exercise and Morgan will probably finish ahead of me."

Sister Kate has been supported through her illness by her partner Nick and children Megan (12) and Zak (8).

Emily's link to her just giving page is: www.raceforlifespokane.org/emilywood7.

Emily explained: "My sister Kate Maytum, who lives in Maesteg, has had breast cancer and last year underwent chemotherapy."

"When your sister has cancer, it really hits home."

"I've decided to run for Cancer Research UK and I'd like to raise as much awareness as possible for the cause."

Emily admits she is not the most sporty of people, but is deter-

People can also donate via text, all they need to do is text EMMZ48 then the amount to 70070. For example (EMMZ48 £1) and then send it on to: 70070.



Emily and daughter Morgan.

CANCER ADVICE

MACMILLAN Cancer Support's mobile service is stopping off at Bridgend this month to give information and support to people affected by cancer.

The service will be at Wyndham Street from 9.30am-4.30pm on Thursday, March 14 and a team of information and support specialists will be on board to offer free, confidential advice and support.

No appointment is necessary and anyone is welcome.

Susan Morris, General Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support in Wales, said: "If you have any worries or questions about cancer, come and talk to us in Bridgend."

Call Macmillan free on 0808 808 0000, or log onto www.macmillan.org.uk.

Return of the Swansea showman! VERNON'S ENCORE AT BARRY ISLAND

by TIM CHAPMAN

REPORTS of the demise of Barry Island's Pleasure Park have been greatly exaggerated – Swansea-born showman Vernon Studd has pledged to return to the resort for another summer season!

Vernon has become a popular character on the Island in recent summers, personally welcoming many of the day-trippers and tourists eager to have a go on the rides he brings to the Island.

He told The GEM: "We will be starting to set up things this weekend and will open the weekend before Easter – Saturday, March 23 and Sunday, March 24."

Vernon has used all his powers of persuasion to get his colleagues in the fairground business to bring back their attractions for another holiday season.

"The weather was so bad last year – but I've told them it wasn't just Barry that suffered,

they suffered elsewhere too."

"We should have 15 rides ready for Easter, including the 'Reverse Bungee' ride, which comes from Gloucester and was featured two years ago."

Part of the confusion as to whether Vernon and the funfair would return was due to the TV series 'Summer in Wales' which showed the Pleasure Park sign being pulled down.

It led people to think the planned new development was about to go ahead.

Vernon explained: "People in Swansea saw the programme and thought the rides in Barry Island had closed down for good, but I explained that wasn't the case until all the planning had gone through."

Steeped in the fairground tradition – Vernon's great-great Uncle Jacob brought rides to the Island in the 1800s – he refuses to be downhearted by last year's poor summer.

"Last summer was a disaster. We lost four major Bank Holidays, but it can't be as bad as that again."

Pleasure Park owner Ian Rogers has run a lease agreement with Vernon in recent years while details are finalised on an indoor leisure complex and residential accommodation on the site.

Vernon is more than happy with his Pleasure Park encore, and added: "When there's sunshine at Barry Island, the people will always turn up and everyone's spirits improve."



ABOVE: Vernon Studd is maintaining a family fairground tradition on Barry Island that goes as far back as the 1800s.

NEW CONCERT DATE

THE performance by Robin and Bina Williamson, which was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, will now take place at The Little Shop of Calm in Cowbridge on Saturday, April 27 at 8pm-11pm. Tickets available at the shop.

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF BRIDGEND LIFESAVERS' CREDIT UNION

AGM to be held on Thursday 14 March 2013, at 7pm

Venue: Presidents' Suite, Riverside Hardware Brewery Field, Tondur Road, Bridgend CF31 4JE

Nomination forms and further details available by contacting 01656 724895

Martin Hughes, Secretary, on behalf of Board of Directors (www.blscu.co.uk)

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Celtic festival comes back to Porthcawl

A WELCOME visitor to Porthcawl around St David's Day each year is the Celtic Festival of Wales.

It was back again this year, based in the Grand Pavilion with Jamie Smith's Mabon and The Hennesseys topping the bill.

A popular attraction for locals was the folk dancing on the promenade, and the parade along John Street on Saturday afternoon.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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ABOVE: Folk dancing on Porthcawl's much-loved tarmac beach!

CHEQUE PRESENTATION IS MADE TO THE SANDVILLE



Picture by Keith E Morgan

BEFORE the start of this weekend's game against Cefn Cribwr, young Corey Cox, son of Pyle RFC's captain, Gareth Cox, presented (on behalf of Pyle RFC), a cheque for £1,538 to Sister Gwyneth

Poacher.

It was raised for the Sandville Self Help Centre at Ton Kenfig, by Pyle RFC and supporters at the charity rugby match against Porthcawl RFC on February 9.

Easy as 'Pi' for Maesteg students



BCBC Coun Huw David, Coun Mike Gregory, Janice Gregory AM, and Maesteg Rotary Club, visited Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd to see the computers in action.

COMPUTER programming has become as easy as 'Pi' for pupils at Maesteg Comprehensive School and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, as Maesteg Rotary Club has donated 10 computers to each school.

The schools were given the credit card-sized Raspberry Pi computers, which are produced at the Sony UK Technology Centre in Pencoed, to encourage pupils to develop their programming skills and to inspire them to study computing further.

Coun Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "Most children today

know how to use computers, but the Raspberry Pi computers will help the pupils to understand how they work.

"The pupils have already made some brilliant games using the computers; Maesteg Rotary Club has uncovered some real programming talent through buying them."

Welsh medium school celebrates St David's Day in local store



LEFT: There was plenty of St David's Day fun at Sainsbury's.

SAINSBURY'S Bridgend celebrated St David's Day in store on March 1 and customers enjoyed the 40 children from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr School singing Welsh songs and getting customers involved.

A life-size Welsh dragon, and Super Ted, were in store giving out daffodils and having photos taken with customers, and Welsh cakes were made available to customers to sample.

Sainsbury's store manager Simon Lean said: "St David's Day is great to celebrate and customers and colleagues got involved and it really made the day a success."

Pat Smith (Leader)

A VISIT FROM QUIZWIZ GWERFYL

AT the February meeting of the Cowbridge Friendship Club, a warm welcome was given to Gwerfyl Gardiner who described in great detail, with humorous anecdotes, her experiences in taking part in various quiz shows, starting from an early age with *Top of the Form*, as a 12-year-old school girl from Bangor.

Then it was onwards and upwards with such shows as

Eggheads, where Gwerfyl was part of a WI team which came first, and then the ultimate challenge, with Anne Robinson on *The Weakest Link* beating all other contestants to win.

Next, it was the turn of the members, where four were duly 'selected' as contestants for a 'Weakest Link'. In a friendly environment, with no lights or cameras, the contestants still found it hard, knowing the answers to the other questions but

when it came to their own, the mind went blank!

We could all appreciate then what an achievement it was for Gwerfyl to actually win *The Weakest Link*.

We always have a variety of activities at our meetings, so if you or anyone you know would like to join our friendship club, please telephone 01656 668446.

Porthcawl Lions get their daffodils out for charity!



ABOVE and RIGHT: Porthcawl Lions were out on St David's Day, suitably attired, to collect funds for Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal. Photo by KEITH E MORGAN



St David's Day launch for charity appeal



ABOVE and RIGHT: Staff at the Co-op in Porthcawl launched the appeal for their charity of the year, Carers Trust, on St David's Day. Photo by KEITH E MORGAN



Wick meeting

The Vale Council's cabinet will be holding a 'community' question and answer session in Wick on Wednesday, March 13, from 7pm to 8.30pm in Wick Community Centre.

Leader of the Council, Coun Neil Moore, explained: "The community cabinet meetings have proved so popular in our large towns, we decided that we should visit the Vale's smaller communities too. We aren't taking the full cabinet meetings to the Vale's villages, instead we have decided to organise question and answer sessions."

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Local primary school pupils get into the Celtic spirit on St David's Day weekend

Report and photographs by
KEITH E MORGAN.

YSGOL y Ferch O'r Sger was very active throughout last weekend, with St David's Day Celebrations and the Celtic Festival in the Grand Pavilion at Porthcawl.

At a school assembly on St David's morning, there was a final practice run-through for the evening's concert and there was also a visit from 'Absolutely Legless', an Irish dance group, which visited the school as part of the Celtic Festival community outreach project.

In the afternoon, the school held its 'Eisteddfod Hwyl' before giving a grand concert to an appreciative audience in the evening.

On Saturday, children from the school took part in the Celtic Concert at the Grand Pavilion where they performed with 'Hwyl a Sbrî', a Welsh clog dancing group.

On the Sunday afternoon, again at the Grand Pavilion, the full 'Côr Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sger' brought their St David's Day celebrations to a grand close when they sang a series of Welsh songs that brought resounding applause from the audience.



YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Cake sale
THE charity event held recently, on Station Road and in the Royal Oak Pub, Kenfig Hill, was a cake sale and raffle for Bliss, as part of their 'Cakes a Difference' Campaign.

All 233 cupcakes were made by Hayley Potter, who also made a large cake and other goodies for the raffle.

Hayley did all the baking for free, and together with Aimee Frankland and Jo McCarthy, they donated the ingredients so that every penny raised went to Bliss.

The three ladies involved in this bake sale, Hayley, Aimee and Jo, all had children in special care when they were born and so the work done by Bliss is personal to them all.

Bliss is the UK charity working to provide the best possible care and support for all premature babies and their families. Well done to these ladies, for all their efforts in raising a magnificent £622 for this very worthwhile cause.

You can still donate by going to the Bliss web page: www.justgiving.com/BLISScakeandaffle

Pisgah Chapel

THE chapel was once

again filled to capacity on St David's Day.

Led by the headmaster Mr Price and guided by the teachers, the children of Pyle School again put on a marvellous 'Gymnasia' of poetry and songs to celebrate our Patron Saint.

Unlike previous years, when the service took place in the morning, this year it was held in the afternoon, so that the children were able to go home with their parents afterwards, although provision was made for those who wished to return to the School.

Last year, Rev Graham suggested to the congregation that in future, anyone who turned up not sporting a daffodil would have to pay a forfeit. Well, quite a few forgot, which resulted in more than £80 being donated to the chapel funds.

The service ended with a prayer and benediction, followed by the Welsh National Anthem. It was a wonderful afternoon, enjoyed by everyone who went.

Weekly events – Why not take a break for half an hour and catch up with friends and have a chat over a cup of coffee every Thursday, in the Vestry at 10.30am? On the same day, there is also a

ladies evening held at 7pm.

For further information regarding events and services happening at Pisgah Chapel, ring the Rev Len Graham on 01656 742422.

Pupils' awards
MANY congratulations to the following pupils at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week:

Dylan Lightwood – class 1, Ffion Harman – class 2, Mia Thomas – class 3, Mathew Leyshon – class 4, Aaron Twose – class 5, Ben Evans and Alex Underhill – class 6 and Jack Evans class 7.

The headteacher's award went to Sam Flanagan – class 1.

Congratulations also go to the following pupils, who joined Mr Davies for a special lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standard of behaviour, including politeness to both staff and fellow pupils during lunchtimes last week: Thomas Flanagan, Jessica Hardwicke, Luke Hamer, Dylan Phillips, Charlotte Edmunds, Lexi Thompson, Ethan Avery, Joshua Jones, Callum Hill, Emily



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Walters and Holly Lewis.

Class assembly – class 4 with Miss Bevan will be performing their assembly tomorrow Friday, March 8, in the school hall starting at 10.15am. Parents and grandparents of the pupils taking part are welcome to attend and to stay for refreshments after the performance.

Formula 1 competition – the school would like to wish good luck to year-6 in the Formula 1 in Schools competition. The team, called the 'Rapid Racers' consists of Lowri Thomas (manager), Eryn Mae Franklyn, Charlotte Roberts and Oliver Roberts (design team) and Amy Ruck and Taryn Matthews (manufacturing team).

They are taking part in the Wales F1 Primary Challenge 2013 competition at the Waterfront Museum, Swansea, on Tuesday, March 12. Headteacher Mr Davies

thanks Mrs Power and Mr Pedler for their hard work in supporting the pupils for this event, and also to Mr Goldsworthy, who has given up his time to share his technical expertise with them.

Worlds Book Day – To help celebrate this important day, a number of Ospreys' rugby players will visit the school and will be spending some time reading to the pupils. They will also answer questions on the importance of everybody developing their reading skills.

The school rugby team will be taking part in the Keith Grice Memorial 10-a-side tournament tomorrow Friday, March 8, at Porthcawl RFC starting at 1pm.

Red Nose Day – The pupils, led by the school council, have chosen to have an 'Opposite Day' and 'Pick-a-Partner day' on Friday, March 15.

To take part, the



ABOVE:

Bliss ladies Jo McCarthy, Hayley Potter and Aimee Frankland (see story on far left, 'Cake sale').

pupils have been asked to donate a minimum of £1, with all money raised being donated to help transform the lives of countless people, both in the UK and across Africa.

Parish news
A CONCERT by 'Sounds Familiar' will be held in the Parish Hall, Pyle, tomorrow, Friday, March 8, at 7pm; there will be refreshments and tickets cost £5.

Lenten Lunches are being served in the Parish Hall, Pyle, at 12.30pm on March 13 and 20, in aid of Cots for Tots. The cost is £2,

pay at the door.

Film Club – The next session of the club will be held in the Parish Hall on Friday, March 19, at 2pm; everyone is welcome.

Mothers' Union – There is a Diocesan Day of Prayer on Monday, March 11, at Llandaff Cathedral. Leader is the Rev Canon Neville Jones.

Coffee will be served at 10am and it will then take place between 10.30am and 3pm. Those attending are advised to take a packed lunch.

For further information of services in the

parish, ring either the Rev Dr Duncan Walker on 01656 740500/07766 710373 or Gareth Gardener on 07779 239302.

St Theodore's
ST THEODORE'S Church is celebrating St David's Day with a concert on March 13 at 7pm.

As well as appearances by Cor Marched Cwm Llynfi and Aelwyd yr Urd, Porthcawl, there will be guest artists.

Tickets, priced £5, can be obtained from Theo's Shop.

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Welsh Government asks for views on tackling fly grazing

THE Welsh Government is asking people in south Wales to have their say on the vexed issue of fly grazing.

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Alun Davies, has launched an eight-week public consultation on finding a long-term solution to fly grazing and abandonment of horses in Wales.

The GEM has reported on many occasions when large numbers of horses have been abandoned in

publicly owned spaces, on common land and on private land.

The majority of fly grazing incidents have occurred in the Vale, Bridgend and Cardiff.

Alun Davies said "The Welsh Government vision is for a fly grazing free Wales.

"Fly grazing often impacts on public safety, on communities (public and privately owned land), the agricultural industry, the welfare of the animals concerned, as well as placing financial burdens on both individuals and the tax payer.

"Partnership working between enforcement agencies and welfare organisations has meant that this issue has been tackled through a co-ordinated approach.

"The consultation seeks to build on this by looking at the current legislative framework, identifying whether there are gaps and what, if anything, the Welsh Government may do to provide a solution."

He continued: "With no one single piece of legis-

lation to address the issue, the consultation seeks views on how the Welsh Government might deliver measures to provide uniformity of standards across Wales, a legal framework enabling enforcement authorities to effectively deter large scale incidents of fly grazing or abandonment of horses and ponies."

He added that feedback will be used to help shape the next phase in tackling fly grazing. It will help the Welsh Government develop the most appropriate actions to achieve the vision of a fly grazing free Wales.

Consultation documents can be found at: <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environment-and-country-side/fly-grazing-consultation/?lang=en>

Incidents of fly grazing and any associated anti social behaviour can be reported to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111 or to the police via the 101 number or via email to the Welsh Government at equinepolicy@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

TV LICENCE EVADERS ARE CAUGHT OUT

TV Licensing has revealed that more than 19,400 people were caught watching TV without a licence in Wales during 2012, including 600 in Barry, 880 in Bridgend, and 240 in Maesteg.

The average evasion rate remains at a low of just over five per cent, meaning almost 95 per cent of homes are correctly licensed, Warren Carr, TV Licensing spokesman said. "The data shows evasion remains at historically low levels of approximately five per cent, with the overwhelming majority of people ensuring they are correctly licensed. In order to be fair to the law-abiding majority who do pay for their licence, we'll continue to pursue the small minority of people who do not pay.

"We do understand some people may find it difficult to pay in one go, which is why we offer numerous ways to spread the cost. If people decide to watch TV without being properly licensed, they risk prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000."

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Group aims to bring new tourists to Vale



Jane Hutt AM with Mandy Davies of Vale Marketing Group.

THE Vale Marketing Group attracted Vale tourism businesses to Cottrell Park last week for workshops and discussions on branding and 'slow tourism' - a more in depth holiday experience.

It was joined by the Vale AM to learn more about supporting local tourism.

Coed Hills wins Tidy Wales award

WINNER of Tidy Wales biodiversity improvement award, sponsored by John Lewis, was the Coed Hills Forest Garden Project in the Vale.

It planted two acres of land, previously used for silage, as a garden, alongside an extensive water system including three

ponds.

"The aim of the Forest Garden, run entirely by volunteers, is to educate people about sustainable food production and the importance of biodiversity," said a spokesperson for Keep Wales Tidy.

The Urban Regeneration Award, sponsored by Vale Hotel and Spa Resort, went to Vetch Veg Community Garden at the former home of Swansea City FC.

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SCHOOL CHOIR'S ST DAVID'S DAY TREAT



The school choir prepares to sing. Photograph by KEITH E MORGAN

THE residents of RMBI Albert Edward had a real treat on St David's Day when the newly-formed choir from Porthcawl Primary School sang for the residents.

The small choir, who were proudly wearing Welsh rugby jerseys and daffodils, performed for a joyous crowd.

Mrs Loveluck had worked hard with this group, many of whom will be performing in the school production at the end of term.

Welsh cakes and Cariad (Welsh wine) were served to the residents while the children enjoyed squash and biscuits.

Porthcawl Primary headmaster Andrew Woods welcomed the residents and choir in Welsh and the pupils sang 10 songs.

A spokeswoman said: "The home is very lucky to have ties not only with Porthcawl Primary School but also Nottage, who will be coming up shortly for an Easter bonnet parade and Ysgol y ferch O'r Sger, who performed here at Christmas."

'Neutering is essential' - cat charity

CATS PROTECTION, Bridgend Adoption Centre, had its first litter of kittens of the year born on St David's Day.

Appropriately, the kittens were called *Daffodil*, *Leek*, *David* and *Myfanwy*.

A spokeswoman for the charity said: "This is the first of many unwanted litters we expect to see this year and by the end of the season we expect to have had at least 600 unwanted kittens through the door."

"Neutering is the key, but it's proving very difficult to get this message across. In this instance, the mum called *Snowball* was admitted to the centre with her daughter and granddaughter, all three cats were pregnant."



NEWS FROM 2117 (KENFIG HILL) SQUADRON

The sky is the limit for Kenfig Hill cadet Nathan

EARLY February saw a return to Dundee for ISCSF Nathan Cooper after poor weather in 2012 cut short his air cadet pilot scheme course.

So once again he took the long journey to Tayside Aviation to resume his training. The week started with snow which made way for blue skies.

The week went well and after nine hours of flying, his instructor decided the time had come for Cadet Flt Sgt Cooper to go solo.

Nathan climbed aboard the Grub Heron (G115 D2) aircraft for his solo flight. After completing a successful landing, he was looking forward to being presented with his pilot's wings.

He said: "The course and flying solo for the first time was an amazing experience that I will never forget."

Flt Lt Barry C Thomas RAFVR(T), Officer Commanding, said: "Cadet Flight Sergeant Cooper had worked hard to attain this achievement that accumulated in the successful conclusion by him gaining his pilot's wings."

Lindsay Thomas



Back row: Cdt Barrett, Cdt Cpl Norris, Cdt Evans Front row: Cdt Cpl Aston, Cdt Cpl Maine, Cdt Clarke and Cdt Peckham.

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ADVENTURE TRAINING ON SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN

RIGHT:
The cadets
had an
exciting
day of
training to
get them
ready for
their DOE
expeditions
set for this
Easter.



AIR Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, travelled to Sugar Loaf mountain (near Abergavenny) for a day of exciting and challenging adventure training.

This was the second training walk of the year, preparing the cadets for their forthcoming Duke of Edinburgh expeditions at Easter.

The aim of the walk was to train the cadets to a competent degree of navigation, team building, first aid, and understanding the country code.

The walk itself was of moderate difficulty, eight kilometers in distance, a short distance to stop and concentrate on navigational skills.

The route started at a viewpoint overlooking Abergavenny, with a

frosty chill to keep the cadets awake!

A nicely paced walk to the top of Sugar Loaf was ideal to get some key features of navigation into the day's training. The group worked very well, enjoying the frost ridden views of the valley below.

On the return route to the viewpoint, the cadets were faced with a first aid scenario. Should this happen on their expedition they will know exactly what to do, thanks to their training on the hill.

The cadets who took part were: Rachel Carbis, Jake Paterson, Georgina and Ellie Poulakis, Jamie-Leigh Bird, Rhondda Gullely, Nathan David, Steph Jones, Pippa and Jack Cowles, Alex Spragg, and Jason Matthew Horton.

Rigorous training on the squadron covers a number of skills, from teambuilding, leader-

ship to mountain craft, camp craft, safety training and navigation before going on the hills.

Squadron training then complements and encourages cadets to explore and appreciate the 'great outdoors'; improve confidence and fitness, learn new skills and, ultimately, provide enjoyment mixed with excitement.

As well as adventure training, the cadets also enjoy flying, gliding, shooting, sports, overseas trips, leadership and citizenship training in a full and action packed training programme.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall). Contact on 01446 747734, or email oc.372@aircadets.org for more information.

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STUDENTS TAKE CHEQUERED FLAG AT F1 IN SCHOOLS REGIONAL FINALS

A TEAM of students from Barry Comprehensive celebrated winning through to the F1 in Schools UK national finals, after an intense and hard-fought south Wales regional final which took place at the Swansea Waterfront Museum.

This Formula One-inspired educational challenge has captured the imagination of students up and down the country; and with a place on the grid at the F1 in Schools World Finals 2013 to be held in Austin, Texas for the UK National Champions, every team put in hundreds of hours of work in their pursuit of the prize.

"BCS Racing", the team from Barry Comprehensive School, with team members Bradley Cox, manufacturing engineer; Gareth Hurman, design engineer; Morgan Osborne, graphic designer; Mitchell Thorngate, resources manager and Jacob Vivian, manufacturing engineer, proved that hard work pays off as they collected the first place F1 Class trophy, as well as the fastest F1 car award, with the team's car racing down the track in a time of 1.428 seconds.

Gareth said of the team's success: "It's been pretty amazing, I didn't think we would win it, so it feels good, it hasn't sunk in yet that we will be going to London for the national finals."

"You learn so much doing this challenge, particularly with the teamwork, getting together a group of people and working well as a team."

BCS Racing were one of three teams who raced to victory at the regional final and will be

representing their school at the F1 in Schools UK national finals at the Big Bang Fair, ExCel, London on March 15-16.

Joining them in London will be Impact from Maesteg Comprehensive School, and 'Unknown' from Pen Y Dre High School, Merthyr Tydfil. In the Bloodhound Class, the winning team was Team Burn from Amman Valley School, Ammanford, and they will compete in the Bloodhound Class National Finals on March 14 at the Big Bang Fair.

F1 in Schools challenges students to create their own Formula One team which is commissioned to design, construct and race the fastest miniature Formula One car of the future; a 21cm long scale model built from a block of balsa wood and powered by a compressed air cylinder.

Each team of between three and six students creates a 'pit' display at the regional final and showcases their work in developing their race car, with a verbal and written presentation for the judges.

The teams then race their model cars on a specially designed 20 metre test track, with the cars covering the distance in just over one second.

In addition to representing their country at the world finals, the F1 in Schools UK Champions and runners up will receive tickets to the 2013 Formula 1 Grand Prix at Silverstone. The national champions will also win a Red Bull Racing F1 team factory tour and a TW steel watch for each team member.

Andrew Denford, founder and chairman, F1 in Schools, said:

"We're experiencing significant growth in the schools entering the challenge this season and the standards are extremely high."

"The students had to cope with the nerves of presenting to a panel of judges and the pressures of putting their models to the test against the best of the region. All the teams put up a great fight, with only a few points separating the top contenders for a place at the national finals".

He added: "The challenge not only tests the students in many key areas of educational study such as the STEM subjects, but gives them an opportunity to gain experience of many life skills which will be invaluable in their future careers."

Winners: First place F1 Class BCS Racing – Barry Comprehensive School, Barry; Runner up F1 Class Impact – Maesteg Comprehensive School; First place Bloodhound Class Team Burn – Amman Valley, Ammanford; Best Rookie Team – Unknown, Pen Y Dre High School, Merthyr Tydfil; Fastest Car F1 Class BCS Racing, 1.428 secs – Barry Comprehensive School; Fastest Car Bloodhound Class Team Burn, 0.739 secs – Amman Valley; Ammanford; Best Engineered Car Slipstream – St John's College, Cardiff; Team Identity Award – Athena Maesteg Comprehensive School, Bridgend; Innovative Thinking Award Team Edge – Bryn Celym Comprehensive School, Beddau; Team Sponsorship and Marketing Award – Impact Maesteg Comprehensive School, Bridgend; Judges Discretionary Award – Eclipse Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, Llanelli.



ABOVE: F1 winners, Barry Comprehensive School



ABOVE: F1 runners-up, Maesteg Comprehensive School.

Combined transport pass idea given backing by AM



Mr Davies met with vice-chairman Mike Edwards (centre) and Peter Honeywell (left) of the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum. All three are pictured in Mr Davies's new office in Cowbridge.

THE leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, AM, has met the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum to discuss the campaign for a local pilot scheme of combined bus and train passes for the elderly.

The forum has called for a pilot similar to those already established on the Cambrian Coast Railway, the Wrexham-Bidston Line, the Conwy Valley Line, and the Heart of Wales Line.

Mr Davies has pledged his support for

the introduction of a pilot that would improve transport links for the elderly in the Vale, particularly in areas where bus services are less frequent or comprehensive in coverage.

He said: "The Welsh Government has itself acknowledged the difficulties faced by older people in relation to transport, including the need for greater integration of services to address some of these problems."

"Given that similar pilot schemes are already in place in other parts of Wales we are keen to see it looked at here in the Vale."

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Dean said: "Having a living space built to your specification is a dream for many, and a reality for our clients. We ensure the whole experience is enjoyable

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NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Trekking through a landscape changed by industrial revolution

SEVENTEEN walkers, including their leader William, enjoyed the adventure of a train ride up to the Rhondda Fawr valley, and when the distinctive shape of the Bwlch came into view high above frosted hillsides, the group knew they were close to Treherbert – which was so-named in 1855 after an ancestor of the Marquess of Bute.

The whole of this rural area, containing only a few farms, changed rapidly after the Industrial Revolution when coal mines were sunk there. Nowadays, the only indication of that era are the continuous rows of neat stone terraced houses, which make it difficult to reason where one village begins or another ends.

Climbing steeply out of Tredegar with stunning views of the carved shapes of the surrounding hills bathed in bright sunshine, they reached Mynydd Tynewydd,

tramping almost hidden pathways between tall conifers where deep ruts containing surface water held frog spawn.

Eventually descending through a pretty clearing and crossing the Afon Rhondda Fach, they stopped to enjoy lunch.

Joining part of the Coed Morgannwg Way, they crossed open moorland before grassy pathways high on the cliff gave them an overview of the Dare Valley Country Park, where work began in 1971 to remove coal tips after the four collieries that afforded employment in the area were closed.

Further on, they passed a Briars Bridleway Trail way-marker with a horseshoe symbol indicating that horses can now ride through Rhondda Cynon Taff on a 14-mile trail over mainly permissive paths, shared with walkers and mountain bikers. It stretches from the Dare Valley Country Park to the Barry Sidings in Pontypridd and accommodation for horses and riders has been provided at Porth and Aberdare.

Aberdare also grew rapidly because of the

abundance of coal and iron ore in the area, coking coal fed the iron-works and in 1836 pits were sunk in haste to exploit steam coal used to power steam locomotives, and by 1851 Welsh steam coal powered the ships of the Royal Navy.

Making their way across the River Cynon to the railway station at the end of the linear walk it was comforting to know they could relax on the return train journey.

On March 9, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an eight-mile moderate/hard walk to Parc Penallta and

Mynydd Eglwysilan; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On March 10, meet at 9.30am at the Barry Waterfront for a five-mile moderate walk from Llantwit Major to Tresilian Bay; contact Jan/John on 01446 418514.

On March 12, the mid-week walk will leave Cogan at 9.30am for an 11-mile moderate walk in the Usk Valley; contact William on 01446 747239.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 02920 255102.

Joy Strangward

Big dip for Marie Curie

ON Sunday, June 2, hundreds of people will try to break the world record for the largest skinny dip on one beach, to raise funds for the Marie Curie charity.

A spokesperson said: "Taking place at a secret location in the Gower area, the exact venue will be released to skinny dippers once they have registered. Every £20 raised will provide one hour of nursing care for someone when they need it most."

To be a part of the big dip in south Wales and possibly make it into the record books, register online at www.mariecurie.org.uk/adrenaline, call 0845 052 4184 or email: waleswestevents@mariecurie.org.uk.



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Next month, we look at a topic close to many of our hearts – and purses – mortgages

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Recycling more at household waste recycling centres

THE Vale has two household waste recycling centres – located at the Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry, and on the Llandow Industrial Estate.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council's cabinet member for the

environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis, said:

"Summertime opening at our recycling sites begins on Sunday, March 31, meaning Barry is open from 8am-6pm and Llandow from 10am-5pm. The sites close only for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, making it easier for residents to divert even more

material from landfill."

Vale recycling crew member Adam Gescheiner is keen to show how easy it is for Vale residents to recycle at recycling centres. With materials such as garden waste, metals, hard plastics, textiles, electrical items, batteries and cooking/car oil, you can certainly do your bit.

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In Business Update

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Bond actor opens his martial arts academy

THE name's **Wong – Dave Wong**, but not only has Dave featured in a James Bond film, he is also known as a top grade martial arts expert.

Dave, from Bridgend, is passing on his skills at the newly-opened Sen Martial Arts Academy in Talbot Green.

Dave explained: "I've been very fortunate in life to pick up the key skills to perform at the highest standard. This

new gym is a way of giving something back to the community and helping others to follow in my footsteps. The academy is equipped with all the latest training gear and I have a wealth of experience to pass on to students."

Dave appeared in the latest record-breaking Bond film Skyfall and was billed as 'the Shaghai art collector'.

For more information on Dave's academy, please call either 01443 222021 or 07807 048 916.

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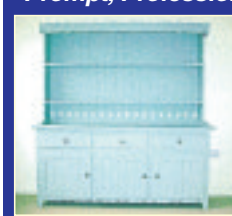
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Author's new book on Bigfoot

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Welsh author Simon Okill grew up in Barry and now lives in Llantwit Major, where he writes full time.

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'RHOOSE PAYING PRICE FOR EARLIER PLANNING DECISIONS' – says local MP

A PUBLIC meeting took place in Rhoose last weekend (March 3) to highlight the issue of more housing being developed in the village.

A total of 350 new homes have been approved for land north of the railway line – and even more could be on the way, according to local people.

Many villagers believe the area has had a raw deal in recent years, with major housing developments, but little in the way of new amenities.

One of the residents who helped to organise the meeting, Richard Barnes, said the meeting was well-attended and had provided a lively forum for debate.

Mr Barnes said it had been good to see elected representatives, Alun Cairns MP, Andrew RT

Davies AM, Eluned Parrott AM and local councillors Phil Clarke and Jeff James, attend the event and provide information on current issues.

Mr Barnes said: "Although the meeting provided residents with background and some answers, it was disappointing to see that the current 350 houses and future 300 are going to be difficult to change, as this has been in the Vale Council planning for 10

by **TIM CHAPMAN**

IMPACT

to 15 years.

"Whilst these plans are only in outline or future planning, it will be a tough challenge to change the numbers and it appears that residents can only try to ensure the developers are managed at 'detailed planning' on providing infrastructure and financial bonds to avoid another Rhoose Point saga.

"The panel also highlighted a massive communication gap between planning, education, health and infrastructure when it comes to impacting communities such as Rhoose and granting permission for such developments.

"We feel that there is also a larger challenge out there, with Welsh Government and local councils to have a planning policy, like in England, where the communities have more control and consultation, because the current Welsh policy is clearly not working."

push ahead and get Rhoose into even more of a mess."

Mr Griffin said the village appeared to be facing up to 790 more houses.

"Each house will probably have an average of three people so adding around 2,000 people to the village.

"Currently, Rhoose has around 5,000 residents so we are effectively going to add around 40 per cent to the size of Rhoose."

He said if this happened Rhoose faces massive problems including basic ones such as whether the school could cope.

'PAYING PRICE'

Vale MP Alun Cairns said he understood residents' frustrations.

"Local residents rightly highlighted their opposition to the new developments in Rhoose.

"Sadly, the Welsh Government's Planning Inspector ruled that development could take place on the land north of the Railway line back in 1996 and we're paying the price now.

"It is wholly unfair that Rhoose is expanding at such a pace without appropriate growth in services such as school spaces, GP care and anti-flooding measures.

"In credit to both local councillors, they have made these points, but policy at both a local and Wales-wide level is against.

"We need to change this. The public meeting in Rhoose underlines the importance of the forthcoming LDP.

"I am determined to see changes and the Welsh Government need to back down on their 10,000 housing target for the Vale."

Regional Assembly Member, Andrew RT Davies, said the numbers at the meeting illustrated how concerned residents were.

"Many of these issues cannot be addressed without a radical overhaul of the planning system so that communities are put at the heart of decision making.

"It is also vital that infrastructure, from schools and doctors surgeries to public transport provision, is appropriately conceived for developments of this type and scale.

"I will continue to work with councillors and the local community and this is far from the end of our fight to ensure that the residents' views are heard loud and clear".

Concerned residents say they plan to hold a 'review meeting' in another six months.

What's on – in brief

Heritage group

THE popular Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at Barry Tourist Railway Station at Barry Island will be holding a Militaria Fair and open day this Sunday (March 10).

Militaria and reproduction vintage items will be on sale at the 'military bazaar', and tables are still available for a small fee.

Living historians will be taking the station back to 1940s Barry and the First World War trench experience will also be brought to life, showing visitors what life would have been like on the battlefields of France.

Veteran WAAF Officer, Eileen Younghusband, who served from 1940 to the end of the Second World War, will be signing her latest book 'One Woman's War' which will be on sale.

A spokesman said: "We'd also very much like to meet people interested in helping Barry at War to create the 'Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre',

or who may be carrying out similar research to ourselves".

Money raised at the 'Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre' open day will help towards further exhibits for the centre, and purchasing the equipment needed to record and present the area's wartime heritage.

The open day will run from 11am until 3pm, and admission is free.

Call Ade Pitman on 07930 874161 or see the website at www.wartimeglamorgan.co.uk for more information.

'Wait and See' demonstration

ON Tuesday, March 12, members will welcome Mrs Ruth Milton Jones.

The title of the demonstration is 'Wait and See'.

Meetings are held at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, commencing at 2.15pm. New members are always welcome

PACT meetings

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT at the local leisure centre, March 13 at 7pm.

ILLTYD PACT, at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry on March 21 at 7pm.

RHOOSE PACT, at the Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhoose on March 21 at 7pm.

Mothering Sunday

SAINT David's Methodist Church, Winston Road, Barry, is holding an all age church service on Sunday March 10, for Mothering Sunday at 9.45 am, all are welcome. Contact the minister on Tel 406262, or email revpete@live.co.uk.

The Monthly Messy Church in Barry takes place on March 11 at

Crossway Methodist Church, Court Road, Barry, from 3.30 – 4.45pm. Children from ages four to 11 (with a parent/guardian) are welcome. Contact Deacon Sam Tel: 406262 or deaconsam@live.co.uk

Visit website to see what is planned for Holy Week & Easter in the Vale: www.valeofglamorgancircuit.org.uk.

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Out and About with The GEM

Street surgeries

MP for Ogmore, Huw Irranca-Davies, will be in Llangeinor on Friday, March 8, for street surgeries between 1pm and 3pm, followed by a drop-in surgery at the Richard Price Centre, Betws

Road, Llangeinor, Bridgend, CF32 8PF.

Councillors' surgery

THE Labour councillors for Castleland Ward, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Les Kuhnell, will be holding their month advice sur-

gery on Saturday, March 9, at the Drop In Centre, Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry, between 10.30am and 12pm.

No appointment is necessary. For further information, contact Coun Chris Elmore on 01446 450007 or 07967 506116.

AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt, will be holding an advice surgery on Saturday, March 9, from 10am-12 noon at the Barry Citizens' Advice Bureau on 119 Broad Street.

Tabernacle get-together

TABERNAACLE Presbyterian Church will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday, March 9, in the Llantion Hall, Llantwit Major, from 10.30am to 12pm.

Entrance £3, to include tea/coffee and biscuits. Entertainment will be provided by Marianne Harman and friends. All proceeds will go to Tabernacle Presbyterian Church funds.

History lecture

THE next meeting of the Dinas Powys Local

History Society will be held on Tuesday, March 12, at 7.30pm in Kynance Hall with a lecture by Mr Aldon Grisdale on 'post-Roman Dinas Powys'.

An administration fee of £1.50 for members and £3 for non-members will be charged at the door. All are welcome to attend. Enquiries to Betty Williams on 02920 513525.

Community transport

GREEN LINKS Community Transport will be available to give advice and information to residents of rural areas in the Vale; Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on March 12 (10am-12 midday). Call 01446 732385.

Buttrills AGM

BUTTRILLS Community Association is holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, March 12 at 7.30pm at Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry. All welcome.

Penarth talk

TO mark the 50th anniversary of CS Lewis's death, All Saints Church in Victoria Square,

Penarth, is hosting a Lent talk and discussion series based on his Christian writings, led by Rev Dr Mark Dimond. The final talk on Wednesday, March 13 is on the subject of 'love'.

To celebrate Mothering Sunday on March 10, services in the parish of Penarth All Saints will have a special focus on motherhood, with flowers for all the ladies!

For more information, visit www.allsaintspenarth.co.uk.

Cabinet forum

THE Vale Council Cabinet question and answer forum takes place on Wednesday, March 13, at Wick Village Hall starting at 7pm. All residents are welcome.

Free play

TO celebrate National Learn to Play Day on Saturday, March 16, Penny Weedon Kerr (in association with Cardiff Live Music Club) will be offering free 'Koffee, Kake and Keyboard' workshops in Boverton.

Telephone 01446 792171.

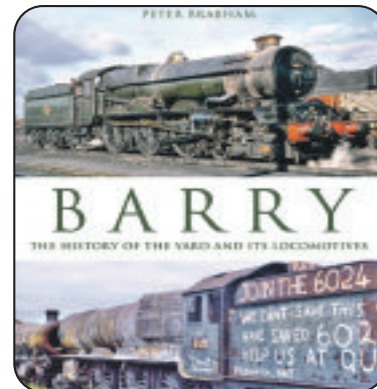
Barry Railway book is a must for fans

A MUST for all railway fans is Peter Brabham's *Barry - The History Of The Yard And Its Locomotives* (Published by Ian Allan at £35 and available from the Ian Allan Bookshop in the Royal Arcade in Cardiff).

The hardback 256-page book tells the legendary story of the Barry scrapyard which was instrumental in saving more than 200 locomotives and gave life to the railway preservation movement.

There are many fascinating photographs of some famous locomotives before, during and after their restoration and full details of the subsequent careers of all the featured locomotives on Britain's heritage railways.

The front cover shows GWR 'King' class No 6023 King Edward II captured on shed at Cardiff Canton



depot on February 18, 1962 and the bottom picture shows the deteriorating condition of GWR No 6023 King Edward II in Barry scrapyard on September

2, 1978.

This is a book that railway enthusiasts will treasure for the rest of their lives.

BRIAN LEE

Sustainable Wick Community Group are organising a

QUIZ NIGHT

Starting at 7.30pm on Sunday 17th March, to be held in The Star Inn, Wick.

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Can you be entertained?

Mixing it up a bit more this year! As well as cabaret nights on a Saturday we will be having some bands and comedians, plus a mixture of other acts on a Friday (Easter onwards) such as karaoke, theme nights, band nights, comedy nights, and drag artists, there is something for everyone. It's the only place to go to over the Bank holiday weekends, with 3 big nights of entertainment - Keep an eye out for what's coming.

And to eat? We offer a great value menu from only £4.99 with traditional family favourites, plus some more unusual fayre too, mostly sourced from local growers and suppliers, fresh meats every Sunday, roasted to perfection with only the finest vegetables used.

At only £7.95 our Sunday lunch offers exceptional value for a table served meal in relaxed surroundings without the hustle and the bustle of the usual carvery fare. Booking for lunch is definitely recommended.

The location? With fantastic views from the cliff top overlooking the Bristol Channel, with views to The Knap and the historic islands of Steephelm and Flatholm, and on a clear day across to Weston it is a great place to find refreshment with the large cliff top patio and outdoor seating and BBQ area, with a monthly out-door BBQ with live band from 3pm (subject to weather conditions), and yet only a 10 minute trip from Barry or Llantwit Major.

What else? A large car park and pleasant location makes us an ideal place to hold a wedding reception, birthday party, conference or any private function. In short, a great place, serving good food and good beer, with a great atmosphere!

Bookings for Mothers Day now being taken, 2 course meal £9.95, plus entertainment. Booking definitely recommended to avoid disappointment.

From the end of May, Thursday Night Quiz plus grab a burger & chips with a pint for only £5.95

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Stoker is a gothic thriller that is visually superb

FANS of Korean cinema (and I know there are plenty reading this column) will already be well aware of Park Chan-Wook, but for those less worldly, he is a writer-director whose work has specialised in tales of revenge and writing wrongs, beautifully stylised and never scrimping on showing the consequences of actions.

Having plied his trade in Asia, he makes his English-language debut with *Stoker*, which tells the story of India (Mia Wasikowska), whose world is turned upside down when her father dies and her mother, Evelyn (Nicole Kidman), invites her estranged uncle Charles (Matthew Goode) to stay with the family.

Suspicious of Charles,

India soon finds herself becoming infatuated with this mysterious man as his motives slowly become clear...

Having enjoyed Park Chan-Wook's previous works, it was with a mixture of excitement and trepidation that *Stoker* was approached, the American film industry often diluting and weakening the strengths of directors for whom English is not their first language.

While the film is a gothic delight, stylish and macabre with a slow-wrought tension that burns throughout, matched by a strong debut script from *Prison Break*'s Wentworth Miller, it also feels slightly empty, the beautiful visuals lacking enough oomph underneath for it to really grab hold of you.

The film is most certainly beautiful to look at, Chan-Wook's distinct style is unaffected by working abroad and is full of wonderful moments that very rarely feel like art for art's



by **GARETH JAMIESON**

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sake.

The direction is thoughtful, loaded with subtext, with every shot having meaning, the sharper-eyed deconstructing the elements of the story through Chan-Wook's visual storytelling, while those happy to sit back and enjoy the ride can just luxuriate in a wonderfully-shot piece of work.

It is more than matched by Wentworth Miller's screenplay, a taut story that oozes tension, duplicity and mystery in equal measure, but when stripped down to the bare bones becomes something a lot more well-worn.

Thankfully, the execution is what avoids it becoming the predictable fare that a lesser director would let it slip into.

Coupled with Miller's sharp characterisation, it takes it a cut above, as do the performances.

Mia Wasikowska has previous in playing troubled teens on the cusp of maturity (you could argue that India is a more realistic Alice, shorn of her Wonderland) and the actress takes great delight in delivering a keen performance, her awkward body language and frowning features giving the character an unsettling edge.

Nicole Kidman, as her frosty mother, unsure of how to deal with her daughter, is a match for Wasikowska, all flinty features and resentment and regret, leaving her more than open to the attentions of Matthew Goode's mysterious Charles.

With an almost vampire-like charisma (the inspiration perhaps for the title?), Goode is superb, the chiselled cool hiding a malevolence that only rarely comes to the surface but whose presence you can feel constantly, and his is the highlight of a well-acted ensemble.

Underneath it all there isn't as much substance as you would maybe expect, but the beauty of the direction and wonderful performances somewhat make up for this in what is a strong, if slightly flawed, work.

VERDICT - Park Chan-Wook's English-language debut goes very well. *Stoker* is a visually gorgeous, gothic thriller that goes for style over substance but still engages.

A strong script and wonderful performances mean that the quality on show takes this a step above similar fare. Enjoyable.

SEE THIS IF YOU

LIKED: *Oldboy* (2003), *Dracula* (1931)

Coveted award just the right medicine for harpist Llywelyn!

WELSH harpist Llywelyn Jones won the first Lyon and Healy harp competition, held at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff recently.

The final year student was one of three international winners, beating off 37 other competitors to win the coveted award and £2,000 worth of prize money.

This success comes 10 days after he won the concerto trials at the Royal College, and an opportunity to perform in a concert at the Dora Stoutzker Hall at the college this autumn.



ABOVE: Llywelyn Jones

Lyon and Healy support competition and help launch careers, by providing a gold concert harp as first prize at the USA International Harp Competition and the International Harp Contest in Israel.

The Cardiff competition is a stepping-stone for Llywelyn to the major competitions in Los Angeles and Tel Aviv.

Llywelyn's dedication prompted him to enlist the help of the Centre for Integrated Sports Medicine's clinic (CISM) at Ewenny, a specialist company providing a unique medical system to help clients achieve peak performance.

Llywelyn said: "This was the biggest competition that I have done. My goal was to win the concerto trials but I didn't dream that I would win the Lyon and Healy.

"The team at CISM have undoubtedly helped to improve my success since I started my programme with them seven months ago."

Book show on line

A LINE-UP of authors and illustrators will be beamed live to homes, schools, bookshops and libraries when 'The Biggest Book Show on Earth' returns for World Book Day today (March 7).

The event, to be hosted by children's writer and TV presenter Tony Robinson, will see bestselling authors and illustrators join the UK's original online live-streamed festival celebrating books and reading for youngsters.

Broadcast live from the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, it will

include *Horrid Henry* author Francesca Simon showing how to bring characters to life, and 'grand dame' of children's literature, Shirley Hughes, explaining how to use illustrations.

Also taking to the stage to offer their insights to children to help them improve their writing will be Lauren Child (*Ruby Redford*), Liz Pichon (*Tom Gates*), Cathy Cassidy (*The Chocolate Box Girls*) and Anthony Horowitz (*Diamond Brothers*), while illustrators Rachel Bright and Guy Parker-Rees will demonstrate how to draw characters and book covers.

Visit www.worldbookday.com.

MAYOR'S COFFEE

THE Mayor of the Vale will hold a coffee morning in the Corporate Suite, Civic Offices, Barry, on March 12, 10.30am to 12 noon. All proceeds will go to the Llamau charity.

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In Barry a large num-

ber of these companies are based on local trading estates. Most are owned by local people.

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So what sort of businesses do we have on our trading estates in Barry?

There are catering businesses, garages, building trade suppliers, double-glazing companies, valeting businesses, meat suppliers, costume jewellery stockists, and a business centre to name a few!

Some people are naturally sceptical about how beneficial large companies and globalisation is to a local economy. How much do they put back into the local community? Do they pay a fair amount of tax?

The owners of small businesses live in their own communities, often with local suppliers of their own, so the money is reinvested.

Next time you need a particular service, don't just think of using a chain supplier, or a multi-national, think of local businesses in the Vale – they may provide that little bit extra.



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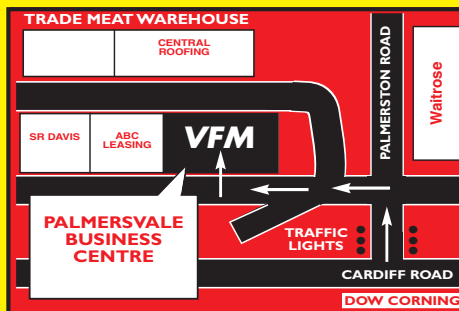
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ABOVE: Hawthorn Travel.

A CRAFTING DEPARTMENT STORE IN THE VALE

WITH the team already expanded by two new members, 2013 is going to be an exciting year for The Bead Room at Boxes and Busto, who celebrate their 10th birthday this June.

There is a wonderful community spirit with Louise and Paul at the helm and at its core is a Saturday afternoon crèche, just for crafters not children!

From 1pm to 4pm every Saturday there are refreshments and lots of chat to go along with jewellery-making help and advice. All are welcome to join in.

There are lots of new plans to be unveiled this year and top of the list is a super new website due to be launched after Easter.

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The latest additions to The Bead Room are Italian hollow glass beads and the Polaris range which included 12mm Rounds set with Swarovski.

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Captain's approval boosts Year of Convoy

BARRY and the rest of the Vale has a great friend in Captain Joe Earl of Bristol, who has penned many a nautical verse or two over the years.

He has come to the aid of the local Barry Merchant Navy Association branch on many occasions.

Joe was recently awarded the Merchant Navy Medal for his service, and his pen, among many other activities.

Much of his tribute work features Barry and has locally been presented to the mayors of the town and Vale over the years and forms part of the Merchant Navy walls at both Barry and the Vale Council offices.

These feature 'The Paddle Steamer 'Barry', Barry Seamen and Barry Dock – Loading Coal. They were always intended for the people of Barry.

His poem, *A Stamp of Approval*, has helped Barry branch and the National Merchant Navy Association, among others, pursue a set of post office stamps that are due to be launched in September of this year, the Year of the Convoy, and will feature the turning point of the Battle of the Atlantic in which many men from the Vale served.

Joe's stamp of approval certainly touched Stanley Gibbons, the worldwide leader in philately, and a £50 cheque from them for an article of the same title, kickstarted the now completed renovation/refurbishment of the shared grave of Captain Cecil Foster, master of the SS Trevesa.

Cecil, of East View Terrace, Barry, was received by the King at Buckingham Palace, loved by his wife Minnie and immortalised in another poem for Barry by Joe. A further tribute to Cecil and all those lost from Trevesa is planned for later this year.

Joe has also penned *Tell The Children* (for the Year of the Convoy).

The Battle of the Atlantic was the dominating factor all through the war, and we should not forget that everything happening elsewhere, on land, at sea or in the air, ultimately depended on its outcome.

Tell The Children A special breed of men my friend – a special breed of men, I'm talking of the convoys and remember once again, Seventy years have passed proving what we owe, Our debt is all the

greater from all those years ago.

Our Mariners endured, intrepid and low paid, With stubborn sense of purpose carried on their trade, Still they served our country sailing there and back, Hauling vital cargoes in times that looked so black.

These doughty Merchant Seamen knew their cruel fate, If struck by cunning sea-wolves lurking there in wait, If they lived to tell their story and strived to stay afloat, They struggled on with hardships aboard an open boat.

Life goes on of course, we age and youngsters grow,

Ask them about the convoys find out what they know,

Show them our Red Duster, explain our island race, Shed light upon the Nelson touch and put the seaman's case.

Spell out the wartime rations and shortage of supplies, Clarify the fight they had risking of their lives, Tell them of the oceans and lifelines to supply, Our children have their freedom and should know the reason why.

Between 1941 and 1945, the Arctic convoys transported more than four million tonnes of supplies to the Soviet Union. More than 100 ships were lost with 3,000 sailors lost their lives. Winston Churchill said the Arctic convoy mission was "The most dangerous journey in the world".

IN BRIEF

Support group's next meeting

The next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group is on Tuesday, March 12 11am - 1pm.

Telephone Gaynor for more details on 01446-733315

Golden Oldies

A CHARITY that uses music to brighten the lives of the elderly and isolated, launched its new session in Barry recently at Salem Baptist Church, Beryl Road.

This had been made possible by a partnership between Golden Oldies Cymru and Age Concern, Cardiff and Vale. Well over 25 people attended the first taster session; it costs £1 which includes tea/coffee and a free golden oldies t-shirt!

Next session with Beth Ford, session leader, is on March 12 at 10.30am-11.30am.

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Readers' Letters

Transparency better than confidentiality

THERE have been many letters and articles in The GEM recently relating to proposals to close three Vale schools.

Communities, schools, parents and children have been shocked and upset and understandably so. Key individuals should consider their position.

But there is also a wider and more fundamental problem and that is about the need for secrecy in dealing with matters that will have a major impact in our community. I use the word secrecy in preference to the jargon 'Part 2' because it more accurately informs.

Confidentiality on some matters is necessary but I wonder on what grounds the decision to make this matter hush-hush was based?

Openness should be the default position, with officials having to fully explain any secrecy, and councillors challenging

that reasoning.

The new Labour-led council should have realised the highly emotive issue to close schools needed to be managed intelligently and sensitively, and there are better ways of doing that apart from a behind closed doors approach.

To expect so many people to have kept the secret was naïve, and the emphasis on blaming the source of the leak was perhaps bordering on paranoia.

Labour's election

manifesto promised to, 'Give the public a bigger say on the things that really matter to them and listen to their views' and the early cabinet agendas showed some signs of improved openness and transparency.

This may have been a better approach to keeping the issue away from the public glare. Finally, the concept of consulting the people after taking the decision lacks credibility.

Dennis Harkus
(FocusBARRY supporter)

Use bus service – OR LOSE IT!

IREFER to my recent letter in The GEM about the bus service 86 to Culverhouse, to which I received a positive response from readers.

After initial concerns about the financial viability of this route, Hawthorn Travel has decided to continue on a

two-month trial period, starting from Thursday March 14.

The altered timetable means that residents in Sully will also have the opportunity to use the twice weekly service.

The bus will start at the Garden Suburb in Barry and travel through to Sully, via Cog Road, on a circular route, back to South Road and then on to Dinas Powys.

The residents who support this service on Thursdays and Saturdays really appreciate it, and passengers will have a full two hours at Culverhouse after getting off at Marks and Spencer.

Notices with the bus timetable will be in the libraries in Sully, Penarth and Barry and Dinas Powys by the beginning of next week.

Alternatively, times can be obtained by ringing me on 029 2051 3274 or from Andrew Eccleshare at the Vale Council, 01446 700 111.

Hawthorn Travel is keen to make this special service a success. I would ask that residents who would like the chance to spend a couple of hours, perhaps having a coffee with friends or doing some shopping, do their best to support this.

It really is a case of 'use it or lose it'.

Val Hartrey,
Dinas Powys

SHARE YOUR VIEWS!

Let us know what you think about what is going on in the Vale - email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...

Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

Local trading estate offers huge variety

WHEN it comes to looking at the economic health of a town such as Bridgend, some of the most important areas can sometimes be overlooked.

Members of the public who are locked into a 'retail' mindset – whether that be town centre or out-of-town – don't give enough thought to what is available on areas like the Bridgend Industrial Estate.

This estate is important for two reasons. First, the traders there are making a huge difference to the area by offering employment, generating ancillary economic activity and, of course, paying their business rates!

The estate is big in every sense – in area, in importance and in the variety of goods and services on offer.

If you drive around the 300-acre estate and check out the main roads and the side roads, you can clock up about five miles – but that petrol money will be cash well spent.

The Bridgend Industrial Estate stands on land once devoted to the Second World War effort, when the Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) produced all kinds of munitions.

Now, the range of businesses is vast. Several motor dealerships are based on the estate and, logically, so are all the motor spe-

cialists you could need.

Whether you need work on regular car maintenance, bodywork, or tyres, there is a specialist on site somewhere in the estate.

Celtic Tyres for instance (see their ad on page 35) have been a fixture on the estate for years.

When it comes to homes and gardens, once again the choice is huge, from tiling to furniture, and from bedrooms to building materials.

It is fair to say that if you want something inside the home, or outside in the garden, you will find it on the Bridgend Industrial Estate.

Many of the established businesses on the estate find that customers come from far and wide.

Its proximity to the M4 makes it easy to get to, and all the businesses have plenty of parking space, so that once you have found the business you need, then visiting is hassle free!

The administrative centre of the estate – its own 'town centre' – shows just how much it matters to the economy of Bridgend, with several high street banks there, together with a cafe, post office, newsagent and a laundry.

In these trying days when resources are stretched to the limit, there is real value to be found on the estate.

It's well worth a look!

MEET THE ADVERTISERS...



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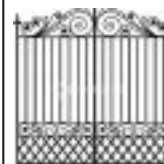


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BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...
Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

MEET THE ADVERTISERS...



Don't tell anybody... Mark Johnson celebrates a big '0' birthday on Friday, March 8.



Solar Blinds – weekly adverts usually appear in the 'classified' section.

Del's Tyres and Repairs

DEL'S TYRES has been operating on Bridgend Industrial Estate since January 2011, and in that time has already built up a loyal customer base.

Delvin Baber, owner of Del's Tyres, has a passion for motor vehicles, and a wealth of knowledge of the trade – from running his own coach and taxi business, to 13 years managing a busy parts department for a Renault dealership.

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Estate is a great base for Town & Country

TOWN & Country Bedrooms are celebrating their second year on Bridgend Industrial Estate after moving from Bridgend town centre.

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best in made to measure fitted bedrooms, home office and sliding door wardrobes.

"It's the best move we ever made."

Paul and his team cover all of south Wales and often carry out bespoke installations all over the country.

"In the last year, we worked in London, Bristol, Gloucester, Weymouth and Swindon, to name but a few places, and it was all on recommendation."

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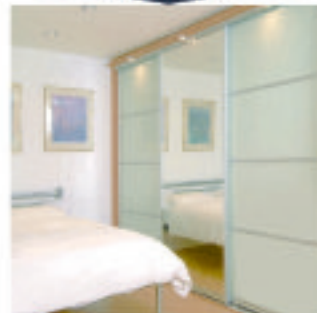
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Pontypridd Road, Barry - £495 pcm
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Pinewood Square, St Athan - £500 pcm
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Vale gets a boost as MoD St Athan welcomes Royal Signals

A TOTAL of 600 soldiers and their families are coming to St Athan in a move that will see the Ministry of Defence (MoD) spending £50 million on infrastructure improvements on the camp.

by PHILIP IRWIN

role however, means that little information is shared with the wider community.

"The announcement also means that Wales will get a larger proportion of the MoD spend.

"The decisions have been made on military assessments but the transfer from the communities have also played a part.

"I brought the Armed Forces Minister to look around the St Athan site and to meet key community leaders last October.

"The site spoke for itself but local councillors and community leaders played an impressive part by showing how welcome we were to more activity within the MoD wire."

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "St Athan and the surrounding community has a history of welcoming and supporting the Forces and their families who have been stationed in the Vale over the past century.

"The news that the 14th Signal Regiment will be stationed at St Athan is welcome, with

the accompanying UK Government investment necessary.

"Alongside the development of the Aerospace Business Park as part of the Welsh Government Enterprise Zone, this is a welcome boost to jobs and growth in the local economy."

Mr Cairns added: "As part of the arrangements, the Red Dragon Hanger will transfer to the Welsh Government for Aerospace use, as per their request. There is also a land swap with the Welsh Government to make better use of the site.

"New facilities need to be built on site to accommodate the additional numbers from the new regiment.

"I also want to continue to work with the surrounding communities to ensure that relations with the military families remain positive."

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies AM, said: "I welcome the news that the long term future of the MoD base at St Athan has been secured.

"This will be a huge boost for the local economy."

More cash will be spent because a condition of the move is that the Welsh Government should fund road improvements around the St Athan complex.

Vale MP Alun Cairns has welcomed the news, and says it will secure the long term future of the MoD base at St Athan.

The 600 soldiers comprise the Royal Signals, and the Vale's gain will be Pembrokeshire's loss, because the regiment is moving out of its Cawdor base, which will close.

Mr Cairns said that the arrival of the regiment would give a massive boost to the local community and wider economy.

He said: "The announcement will guarantee MoD funds in the area, with increased spend from soldiers through to contracts for local builders for structural projects on site."

The move has come about after an MoD review considered the future of every military base around the country to establish how each could match the changing form and size of the armed forces.

Mr Cairns said: "St Athan could have been closed for development purposes but it will become one of the UK's key military bases."

He continued: "Winning the Royal Signals is a coup for St Athan. They are experts in electronic warfare which, along with the presence of Special Forces at the base, puts St Athan at the cutting edge of the changes to modern conflict

"There is already much activity on site with the Special Forces, which has seen significant investment over recent years.

"The nature of their

Local choir members publicise Red Nose Day

ON Monday, March 11, Rock Choir members from Cowbridge, Bridgend and Pontyclun will embark on an extra-special singing mission - to help raise money and awareness of Red Nose Day, which takes place on Friday, March 15.

The stealthy singers will team up and head to the Quadrant Shopping Centre in Swansea.

At 12 noon precisely they'll start serenading shoppers with the Eighties anthem 'You're The Voice.'

Local Rock Choir leader Stephanie Bailey explained:

"This year, Red Nose Day is about doing something funny for money, and there are several fundraising themes, including 'entertain' and 'Go Eighties'.

"We thought it would be a great idea to combine the two, by singing our own specially arranged version of the John Farnham song. We're hoping it will inspire people to donate money or organise their own fundraising events for Red Nose Day."

It is the second year in a row that Rock Choir, the UK's largest contemporary choir, has supported Comic Relief.

Kenfig cadets' BTEC success



ISCFS Nathan Cooper and ISCWO Nico Fitzgibbon.

TWO senior Kenfig Hill cadets were recently awarded their BTEC in Aviation Studies.

ISCWO Nico Fitzgibbon and ISCFS Nathan Cooper both successfully completed their BTECs - which is an equivalent to two GCSEs A-C Grade.

Once cadets have achieved Master Air Cadet they qualify for the BTEC Intermediate level two in Aviation studies.

Lindsay Thomas (Secretary civilian committee)

Charity's search for inspiring women

A BRIDGEND-BASED charity is asking residents of Bridgend county borough to name the woman who has most inspired them.

Bridgend Women's Aid is asking the question to mark International Women's Day and its theme in Wales, 'Visible Women: Empowering girls and women in Wales'.

The charity will be talking with members of the public about inspirational women between 11am and 3pm on Friday, March 8, at the Civic Offices, Bridgend, as well as handing out leaflets about the services it provides for women and children affected by domestic abuse.

There will also be a private room available where members of the public can talk in confidence with a member of the charity's staff.

Kathryn Fox, Bridgend Women's Aid's Support in the Community co-ordinator, said: "Anybody can suffer domestic abuse, regardless of social class, cultural background, education, age or sexual orientation.

"One woman in four in the UK will be a victim of domestic violence during their lifetime, so it's important that Bridgend Women's Aid continues to work

together with its partners, including Bridgend County Borough Council, to make people aware of the support we can offer in times of need."

Bridgend Women's Aid provides refuge and support in the community to women, children and young people who have experienced or are experiencing domestic abuse.

Anyone concerned about domestic abuse or sexual violence can call the All Wales domestic abuse and sexual violence helpline for free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 0800 80 10 800.

Contact Bridgend Women's Aid directly by calling 01656 766139 or by calling into the office at 36a Caroline Street, Bridgend. In an emergency call 999.

WHAT'S ON IN BRIEF Spring exhibition

PORHCRAWL Art Society's spring exhibition will take place at the Old Police Station, John Street, Porthcawl, accompanied by a coffee morning, at 10.30am on March 30 (Easter Sunday). Coffee and cake, 70p.

Concert in village hall

THE Coytrahen Male Voice Chorus is performing in Ynysawdre Village Hall on Friday, March 22 at 7pm.

Tickets are £5 each and are available from Mair on 01656 722115

Did you know you can read your GEM online? bridgend-today.co.uk

Local farmers reject claims that they have neglected cows



Cows pictured at Frampton Farm on March 1.

by TIM CHAPMAN

TWO brothers, who live in the village of Llanmaes, have rejected claims that the cows on their farms have been neglected through the winter.

Robert and Gwyn Bassett of Brook Farm and Frampton Farm told The GEM that the cows had been fed properly, but had faced unusually severe weather.

We approached the brothers after a number of people had raised concerns with The GEM as to the welfare of the herd. They claimed a number had died.

The GEM asked Mr Robert Bassett whether the herd had been neglected in the last few weeks.

Mr Bassett explained: "It has been such a wet winter they have been using up their energy keeping warm."

"They have been getting plenty of food. They've been fed twice a day."

Mr Bassett said that they didn't have enough buildings to shelter all the cows and that they would seek shelter beside hedgerows, but the rain had been so heavy it was bound to have had an effect on them.

He said: "Last winter it was not as wet as



ABOVE: A cow pictured at Brook Farm on March 5.

this and we didn't have these problems."

The GEM asked how many cows had died and Mr Bassett replied: "I can't say off-hand, but it is a small percentage."

The GEM pointed out that local people had been concerned by what they had seen.

Mr Bassett said: "I can understand that, if people are looking from the gate and see all the mud and it's so wet."

"The ground has now dried out a lot and things are improving."

The GEM told Mr Bassett that we understood that government vets had visited the premises. He said vets had been "monitoring the situation".

Local people say they have been in touch with the Animal Health and Veterinary

Laboratories Agency to voice their fears, and The GEM approached the agency for a response.

A spokesman for the agency told The GEM: "AHVLA takes all allegations of breaches of animal welfare legislation seriously and all are investigated as a matter of urgency. However we are unable to comment on individual cases."

"Where welfare problems are found, advice or warnings are usually sufficient to bring about satisfactory improvements."

"However, where necessary and where the evidence is available, the local authority, as the appropriate enforcement agency, may initiate prosecution action for welfare offences."

News in brief

Art society

ON Thursday, March 14, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome Cardiff artist Mary Jolley, whose work is in collections worldwide, who will give a presentation of her work and lead a practical session in encouraging members to create an abstract image from a realistic scene.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm-9pm. Visitors are welcome. For full programme see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com

Church concert

ST CADOC'S Church, Cowbridge, welcomes the BellaDonna choir, directed by Geoff Howells for a Lenten choral evening on Sunday, March 17 at 7pm. All are welcome; tickets £8 available from Richard (01446 773389), Deirdre (01446 793224) or from Barnes Cleaners, Cowbridge. Price includes an interval glass of wine.

NEW CONCERT DATE

THE performance by Robin and Bina Williamson, which was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, will now take place at The Little Chapel of Calm in Cowbridge on Saturday, April 27, at 8pm-11pm. Tickets available at the shop.

Girls football is growing in profile

GIRLS football has been growing rapidly in the Vale recently with new club, Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club, at the forefront of the development of the female game.

The club, which launched in the summer of 2012, has already become one of the largest female-only clubs in

south Wales, having created extensive links with local schools in all areas of the Vale.

Currently with five teams and 85 players competing in the South Wales Girls League, the club is growing on a weekly basis with new players getting inspired to take up the sport.

As well as running existing teams, the club have been very proactive

in providing opportunities for girls to experience football through school programmes and festivals.

In November 2012 the club launched the first 'Girls Football Primary School League' which brings 15 teams from 12 schools in the area together on a fortnightly basis to play regular friendly matches.

Chairman Luke Williams commented: "The club has successfully created links with over 25 schools in the local area as we see this as a fundamental area for the future growth of the game."

"We offer football for girls aged 7-16 and from September we will be launching our first ladies team, creating a pathway for players to continue playing into their adult life. We cater for all abilities so come and give it a go!"

The club are running two open evenings on Thursday, March 14 - 5pm-6pm at Penarth Leisure Centre and Wednesday, March 20 - 5pm- 6pm at Cadroxton Sports Hall, Barry.

For more information please visit our website: www.valegirlsfc.co.uk or email: info@valegirlsfc.co.uk; follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/valegirlsfc and follow us on Twitter: @ValeGirlsFC. LW

SILVERWARE FOR THE VALE REDS

SPRING came early for the Vale Reds Disability football club when they played at a Pan Disability football festival at Skewen, Neath on March 3.

The club was invited to play by Bridgend Herons of the West Wales league in a tournament containing 10 teams.

The Vale Reds got off to a good start in the over-16s championship with a 5 - 0 win over Swansea City Bravehearts and this continued for the next three matches, with a 2 - 1 win over Swansea City VIP's including a goal straight from a corner, a 6 - 0 win against Cleddau Warriors with a hat-trick from captain Nic Latham and a 3 - 0 win over Neath Port Talbot Dragons with goals from Lewis Overton.

The Vale Reds then met RCT Tigers from the South East Pan Disability league that they usually play in.

Both teams know each other well and the game was very tight until Anthony

Bracther went through to score in the first half.

Again the second half was very tight with both teams having good changes but again Anthony scored his second to give the Reds a 2 - 0 lead; a late goal from the RCT Tigers a minute from full time was not enough and the Vale Reds won the game 2 - 1.

The coaches would like to thank the players for the all their hard work in training which really did pay off at the festival; the club trains at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg on a Wednesday night from 7pm to 9pm.

If you have a disability the Vale Reds are holding an open evening on Wednesday, March 20 from 7pm to 9pm at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg; please come along to this free taster session.

If you would like more information please telephone Neil on 07827 334818 or see the website at Valeredsdisabilityfc.btc.k.co.uk.

NL

Scheme gives lift to Vale's high flying sports stars

INTERNATIONAL medal hopefuls, national champions and a skier aiming to compete in the 2014 Winter Olympics are among the talented sportsmen and women whose sporting ambitions are being supported by the Vale of Glamorgan Council's sports academy scheme.

The scheme, overseen by the council's sports and play development team, and run in partnership with Parkwood Community Leisure, is giving over 30 local elite-level athletes free use of leisure centres in the county to help them with their training needs.

One of those aiming for the pinnacle of their sport is Rob Taylor, a freestyle skier from Barry, who is targeting a place in Team GB's Half Pipe Ski Squad for the Sochi Games in Russia.

In addition to Rob, the sports academy scheme is also giving a helping hand to a number of other talented sportsmen and women from the Vale such as London 2012 athlete Brett

Morse, from Penarth, and Barry sprinter Rhys Knapman.

Another athlete whose ambitions are being supported is Jessica Wallington, who has recently become a guide runner to Paralympic athlete Tracey Hinton. Jessica and Tracey are aiming to win medals in this year's World Championships, followed by next year's Commonwealth Games and then the big one, the 2016 Paralympics in Rio.

Also on track for the Paralympics in Rio is 19-year-old cyclist James Brookman from Sully, who is in excellent form after setting several personal best times in training. The Vale Council is also rallying behind 16-year-old Ellen Mahenthiralingham, a rising star of Welsh badminton, as well as 19-year-old Matt Robinson from Llantwit Major, who competes in the sprint kayak and is part

of the Canoe Olympic Development Programme.

Meanwhile, sailors Matilda Matthews, 14, and Will Creaven, 16, are two sports academy scheme members who are hoping to emulate the sea-faring success of the Vale's most recent Olympic medallist, Hannah Mills.

Cllr Gwyn John, the Vale Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure, said: "We are really pleased to be able to offer this scheme and support talented individuals to reach their potential on a national and international stage. The sports academy scheme has been running for a number of years in the Vale and supported athletes such as Nicole Cooke earlier in their careers. I'm looking forward to seeing how the current scheme members develop over the next few years and wish them all the best for the future."

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The Seaweeds do the double over Treherbert



Nick Nutman crosses for the first try

PORHCRAWL season. travelled to the Rhondda and came away with a fine 18-13 win, giving them the double over Treherbert for the



Captain Matthew Owen on the charge.

PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS

ed to move the ball at every opportunity, making the visitors defend constantly. When Treherbert went 6-0 in front from two penalties to punish Porthcawl's indiscipline, it looked to be a very difficult afternoon.

However, once the visitors started to concentrate on a simpler game plan, the more direct approach yielded its reward when skipper Matthew Owen chipped over a penalty in front of the posts.

The 6-3 half time scoreline was poor return for the home side's superiority for long periods and the second half could still be fruitful for Porthcawl.

Coach Blair Driscoll's half time pep talk obviously had the desired effect as the Seaweeds began to get into the home side's faces more directly and the cracks started to appear when the pressure was applied. The introduction of Tim Lunn bolstered the front row somewhat and the Seaweeds scrum started to punish the home eight.

First it was centre Richard Brock who put Porthcawl in front with a good try and skipper Owen added a penalty five minutes later for 6-

11. With Porthcawl now harassing the home side into completely losing their shape behind, Nick Nutman took advantage of a dropped pass to hack through from his own half, winning a thrilling race to touch down for a splendid try. Owen converted and suddenly it was 6-18 to Porthcawl.

In the final five minutes Porthcawl suffered two yellow cards, both very harsh, and the final plays saw a tense finale, the home side sensing their last opportunity, grabbing a converted try with two minutes remaining.

However, Porthcawl's heroic 13 men came again with determined defence, and when the final whistle blew, earned a hard-fought win.

Sean Kennedy was the pick of the Seaweeds eight, while Mathew Roberts and Ollie Jones kept the backline ticking over for a great win on the road.

TW

Rampant Athletic youth tear Maesteg to shreds

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC youth welcomed Maesteg youth to Newbridge Fields on a lovely spring afternoon for the quarter final of the District Youth Cup.

The Athletic started the game at a fast pace and were ahead within four minutes when a sharp backs move put outside half Scott Govan through to score the game's first try near the posts. Scott Govan converted his own try to make the score 7-0.

Bridgend continued to dominate possession and territory and also continued some excellent passing play amongst the backs and were rewarded with a Josh Seldon try on nine minutes. Scott Govan was again successful with the conversion to take the score to 14-0.

The young Maesteg side showed excellent resolve but could not live with the Athletic pack which was providing a great platform, allowing half backs Jake Williams and Scott Govan to control proceeding and this led to the Athletic's third try scored by Matthew Wilson after 12 minutes, again being converted by Scott Govan to take the score to 21-0.

The Athletic pack continued to apply huge pressure on their opposite numbers with back row Lewis Down, Lloyd Wilson and Rory Thomas prominent, allowing the backs great field position.

This again paid off just before half time when a flowing move put No. 7 Lloyd Wilson over in the corner. This time the try went unconverted, taking the half time score to 26-0.

The Athletic started the second half at the same pace as they had the first and within minutes Matthew Wilson had scored the game's fifth try which was again converted by Scott Govan, taking the score to 33-0.

The backs continued to tear holes in the Maesteg defence and were rewarded with a third Matthew Wilson try which was converted by Scott Govan to bring the score to 40-0.

The coaches began to ring the changes in personnel, but despite changes at scrum half and in the pack the pace of the Athletic game didn't change one bit and a powerful forward move allowed back row replacement Ash Adams to score a further try on 55 minutes. This try was converted by replacement number 10 Josh Carey, taking the score to 47-0.

Maesteg youth showed great courage in the face of a very powerful Athletic team but the final move of the match allowed Athletic number 8 Rory Thomas to score the game's eighth and final try right on full time, to make the final

score 52-0. This was an excellent performance by all the whole of the Athletic squad and they can now look forward to the semi final of the district cup and the remainder of the league programme.

COBHAM TOUR The youth travelled on tour to Cobham, Surrey last month to continue a long standing relationship with Reeds Weybridge RFC.

The English Rugby Union differs to that in Wales in that they operate an under-16s, under-17s and under-18s system, whereas we regard any player under 19 as 'youth'. This meant their team was made up from all the above age groups and, as we have always found, they always provide a very stern test for any team who visits.

This again proved to be the case in the early stages of the game with both teams battling for possession and territory.

The Athletic forwards began to exert themselves on the opposition and used their powerful rolling maul to good effect and this paid off after some 10 minutes when second row Lloyd Griffiths went over for the game's first try, which was converted by fellow forward Aaron Mordecai making the score 7-0 to the Athletic.

Reeds were not however deterred by this early score and the Athletic backs had to defend well on many occasions to keep them out.

More forward pressure was the order of the day for the Athletic and further tries came from Matthew Greenman and Ash Adams, but on both

occasions Aaron Mordecai hit the uprights with the conversions bringing the halftime score to 17-0 to the Athletic.

In the second half Reeds Weybridge came out strongly again, putting pressure on the Athletic's back defence, but all they got in reward was a penalty to bring the score to 17-3.

The Athletic set piece was working well with scrums and lineouts providing excellent ball. The Athletic pack didn't waste this with a further rolling maul ending in a second try for back row man Ash Adams to take the score to 22-3.

In one of the last moves of the game the Athletic backs finally had something to celebrate when after some good handling centre Chris Price went over to make the final score 27-3 to the visitors.

The coaching staff agreed this was a fantastic performance from all 17 members of the travelling squad, particularly considering the fact that four high jinks began the day before and paracetamol was on the menu on the morning of the match!

While thoroughly deserving their win, Bridgend would agree that Reeds Weybridge provided a very stern test in a game played in an excellent spirit.

Rugby was once again the winner in this tour game which continues the excellent friendship between the two clubs. The welcome received was once again excellent and it is hoped this can be returned next season when Reeds have promised to visit Wales. MP

Pencoed edge a tight encounter

PENCOED were forced to make a late change to the starting line up in this game against Resolven, skipper Ken Morris having to withdraw through injury.

Richie Samuel came in to start at full back, Glen Hiscocks switched to centre, with Tom Cross taking Samuel place on the bench.

Despite this problem Pencoed started well, scrummaging powerfully with No8 Gareth Prentice taking advantage of this ascendancy with some aggressive bursts.

A Samuel break put Pencoed on the offensive, and from the resultant penalty outside half Marc Davies duly obliged. Opposite number Richard Morgan levelled matters before Davies restored the Pencoed lead with a further penalty after 22 minutes.

Good combined passing from the Pencoed forwards involving Aaron Halse, Prentice and Nicky Hawkins took play into the home 22 and with Resolven just having picked up a yellow card, Pencoed capitalised immediately with a pushover try, Prentice getting the touchdown and Davies converting for a 3-13 lead.

Pencoed looked comfortable at this stage of the match, however the picture changed in the two minutes prior to the interval.

Morgan kicked a second home penalty, before Resolven scored a good counter attacking try from their own 22, Lloyd Morgan scoring at the posts. Richard Morgan converted and it was game on at 13-13. On half time Davies kicked a penalty for Pencoed to lead 13-16 at the break.

Davies and Morgan swapped penalty goals at the start of the second half before Pencoed got their second try, wing Liam Halse scoring wide out, and Davies converted. With the home side having made a couple of changes, notably in the front row, their pack was starting to give Pencoed trouble with their direct approach and home hooker Niki Reed drove over to reduce the Pencoed lead to 21-26. Pencoed responded

with a superb counter attacking try from 50 metres, Davies triggering off his backs and with Cross and Aaron Songhurst handling well.

Supporting centre Lloyd Bargery took the inside pass from Songhurst to race over gleefully for the touchdown; Davies converted and Pencoed led 21-33 going into the final ten minutes.

Young Pencoed open-side Curtis Williams was then very unlucky to pick up a yellow card at the breakdown, an area in which Williams had been prominent throughout with a number of turnovers.

Pencoed were now coming under increased pressure, their ranks also depleted by injury and incredibly by the final whistle had used four scrum halves!

Wing Stefan Lewis got a late home try but the Pencoed team showing great character were not to be denied, and ended deserved 26-33 winners considering their second half disruptions.

For the first time the Pencoed man of the match award voting was tied, Davies and Prentice sharing the clubhouse vote for contrasting reasons; Davies for a match haul of 18 points, and Prentice, with his abrasive running throughout, proving a handful for the home defence. Emergency skipper for the day Davies sportingly allowed his No8 to collect the man of the match award.

The squad now break for the international weekends before returning to league action on March 23 at home to Mumbles, and will no doubt look to extend their unbeaten new year winning run.

DN

TR

Bridgend chess round-up

BRIDGEND A held on to second place in division 2 of the East Glamorgan chess league by beating Cardiff AJs 3-2, giving the A team a 1/2 point lead over the AJs who are still in third place.

However, with St Johns of Cardiff just 1/2 a point behind them in fourth place, and with

Porthcawl beating Cardiff Dragons 3-2, moving up to fifth in the league, only a point behind St Johns, the few remaining games left to play are critical for Bridgend A if they are to secure a place in the top three of division 2 and gain promotion to division 1.

Barry Camelots, with a five point margin over the rest at the top, look odds-on to win the title.

MK

Sponsors wanted

ON May 20 I am taking my disabled football team to Spain to play in the Catalan Cup against teams from Spain, Italy, England and South Africa.

Being the only Welsh team it will be an honour for us to take part.

I am looking for a company who would like to supply us with a new kit and tracksuits that my team can wear while at this tournament; in return you can put your name and logo on our clothing, along with other benefits.

If you are in a position to help my team I would like to hear from you; email me at: bridgendfc@hotmail.co.uk.

KELLY HALL

Tondu under-13s hold on

ON Sunday, Tondu under-13s travelled to Llantwit Major.

Straight from the kick off Tondu attacked, the ball was moved from the midfield, and C. Gibson went over for E.Thomas to convert.

From a good tackle in midfield the ball was recycled to the returning J.Richards, who with a good hand off had a strong run to the line for a try.

The strong tackling was proving good for Tondu with M.David bridging to secure the ball which was moved to B.Rich, who sprinted down the touchline, and handed off covering defenders to score wide out. Next C.Gibson moved out wide and with steps off both feet left the defence flat footed to score again.

Playing uphill second half Tondu started well, with I.Morris stealing the ball and making ground before passing to his centre, who made a strong

burst for the line.

He was stopped short, but E.Thomas was on hand like a good No 7 to pick up and score, and he added the extra two points.

Next, from another good tackle, J.Evans made good burst in midfield before passing to C.Gibson who scorched down the touchline to score again; E.Thomas again added the extra two points.

From another strong run, J.Richards was tackled short but E.Thomas was on hand again to pick up and flop over.

From a scrum in midfield the ball was moved across the backs for C.Gibson to score and convert to give Tondu 48 points, but they then went to sleep and allowed Llantwit a few scores to set up a tense final few minutes.

Final score: Llantwit Major under-13s 43, Tondu under-13s 48.

Bridge results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events, starting Wednesday, February 27, are:

First Jane Brook and Wendy Williams, second Steve Burgoyne and Ann Fox, third Irene Thomas and Graham Jones; Friday, March 1: first Mary Moore and John Beard, second Bryn Gough and Alan Grant, third Lesley Chagan and John Evans.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are welcome, on Thursdays at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are opportunities for those who would like to improve their bridge with John and Christine Evans, who run an informative and enjoyable two hour session.

For more information contact John on 01656 880372.



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GORCHYMYN GWYRO 2005**

Ar 21 Ionawr 2013, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod.

Ellaith y Gorchymyn o'r gadarnhau yw gwyrhoi llysoeddi cyhoeddus ger Bloomfield Farm fel y gwelir ar Fap y Gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn i'w gweld yn rhyd ac am ddim yn Swyddfeydd y Doc, Heol yr Iaffordd, y Barri rhwng 9:00am a 4:00pm yn ystod yr wythnos, o'r 7 Mawrth 2013 hyd 16 Ebrill 2013. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yma am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 7 Mawrth 2013. Barch hysbyrru os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam, yn dymuno holl ynghylch dilyniannedd y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddarpariadau ynddo, am nad yw o fewn pwerau'r Deledf uchod, yntau na chydymffurfio â gofynion y Deledf neu neidiadau a wnaed o ddiw'r gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, oelfi yr unigolyn hwnnw wnaed ca i'r Uchel Llys o dan Adran 287 Deddf Cyflwyno Gwlad a Thref 1990, cyn pen 6 wythnos o ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r Rhybudd yn gyntaf, yn unol â phargraff 7 Atodlen 14 y Deledf honno.

Dyddiedig 7 Mawrth 2013
Gwasgyddler Gwasanaethu Datblygu
Swyddfeydd y Doc, Dociau'r Barri, y Barri CF63 4RT



**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF
PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY
PLANNING
ACT 1990 SECTION 257
AND PARAGRAPH 7 OF SCHEDULE 14
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATHS NOS 2 & 10
LLANCARFAN) DIVERSION ORDER
2005**

On the 21st day of January 2013 the Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the public footpaths near Bloomfield Farm as shown on the Order Map.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at Dock Offices, Subway Road, Barry free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 7th March 2013 until 16th April 2013. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 7th March 2013 but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under Section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date on which Notice is first published as required by paragraph 7 of Schedule 14 to that Act.

Dated this 7th day of March 2013
Director of Development Services
Dock Offices, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT

Situations Vacant

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Birthdays

Nancy Davidge**Happy 90th Birthday for 6th March!**

With best wishes and lots of love from Gaye, Gary, Walkiria, Jasmine, Naomi, Nicole and Tony. XXX

**Happy 90th Birthday Nancy Davidge**From all your friends at
The GEM
XXX

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Adverts must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.**Two Armchairs**Good condition £60 for both, but will sell separately.
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Family Notices

BROWN Adrian Paul

Peacefully at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Adrian, much loved husband of Hilary, devoted father of Lauren, Holly and Ashleigh, loving son of Hilary and Paul, brother of Steven, uncle of Anastasia, Tamzin, Megan and Alexander.

Funeral Service at Cardiff and Vale Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, 13th March at 12.45pm.

No flowers by request.

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WAKEHAM Peter

Sadly on Tuesday 26th February 2013 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Peter, a very much loved husband of Anne, devoted dad of Simon, Tim and Gemma, adored grandad of Chloe, Josh and Jacob.

Funeral service will take place on Friday 8th March 2013 in Coychurch Crematorium at 11.00am.

All further enquires to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, CF31 3AP. Telephone number: - 01656 653156

Thank You

THANK YOU

Sylvia would like to say a big, big, thank you to the two ladies who helped her when she fell in Gaen Street, Barry, on Thursday February 28, whilst taking her granddaughter and friend home from Romilly School.

Happy 90th Birthday and Mother's Day Betty Rastin

10 March 2013

Love from all the family
XXX**GOODALL Amelia Agnes**

Peacefully on February 28th in her 95th year, at Milsom House Nursing Home with her daughter Patricia at her side. Amelia will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

The funeral service will take place on Wednesday, 13th March at 11am in Coychurch Crematorium. No flowers at Amelia's request, but donations may be made to Ty Hafan c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please).

COOPER Valerie

Suddenly and peacefully Valerie passed away at her home in Llantwit Major on February 25, after a long illness. Much loved wife of Geoffrey, she will be sadly missed by all her family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnon. Funeral Tuesday March 19, service and cremation 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to The Osteoporosis Society c/o J James, 11 Ffnon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

HARRIS Beryl Sophia

Roy would like to express his sincere thanks to family, friends and neighbours for every expression of kindness and sympathy he has received following his recent bereavement and also for the generous donations received for Cancer Research UK in Beryl's memory.

Special thanks to Dr Isabelle Graham and nurses. Thanks also to Thomas Brothers for their dignity and professionalism.

RICHARDS Marjorie

Marjorie (mother of Carole Pope) slipped away peacefully on 27th February 2013 with her family at her bedside.

The funeral will take place on Monday, 11th March 2013 at St Athan Church at 1.30pm, followed by a service at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.45pm.

She will be sadly missed by all who knew her and flowers may be sent to W James & Sons Funeral Home, Ffnon.

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Public Notice

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG**Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012****Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth**

Application No/ Rhif y cais:

2013/00026/FUL

Proposal/Cynnig:

Two storey extension

Location/Lleoliad:

2, St. Augustines Crescent, Penarth

Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth:

Penarth

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 7 March, 2013

M. Goldsworthy, Operational Manager Development & Building Control,

Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry, CF63 4RT

Public Notice

Notice of application to vary a Provision Licence under Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003

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Year 7 team reach Cup final



ON February 25, Cowbridge Comprehensive's year 7 rugby team played Stanwell in the semi-final of the Vale Cup.

With a disappointing loss in the final of the Vale 7's tournament the team had a point to prove. The match started, and the teams were very much even, but Cowbridge produced the first try of the match.

With the score at 5 - 0, Cowbridge were trying to pull away, but Stanwell remained strong, and were not ready to throw in the towel.

The second try was run in by Ben Jones, playing in an unfamiliar position, but still showing his class by powering over the line and was produced by some excellent backs play.

The ball was popped out to Will

Jervis, who was the first of seven players to get their hands on the ball. The ball was passed wide to Jack Dixon on the wing, who finished the move in style. The score was on 15 - 0, and the Cowbridge were ready to put the match to bed.

The second half started, and Cowbridge were now starting to produce the rugby they are capable of. Reuben Williams ran over two tries in the second half, to make the score 29 - 0. Before the end of the game, two more tries were scored, and the game finished 39 - 0.

Well done year 7, the final awaits us, where Bro Morgannwg will be waiting; it will be a tough game.

Players of the match: Declan Brooks and Reuben Williams.

ROLLERCOASTER DAY AT PF INTERNATIONAL... But local driver Tom lands Winter Championship glory!

A fine display of driving saw Tom Harvey crowned the Winter Series Champion with an outstanding drive from the back of the field to a podium position to secure enough points to collect the championship.

Earlier in the day Harvey's chances of winning the championship took a blow as he was excluded by the officials from his first heat following numerous false starts and had to watch the race unfold from the sidelines.

However, after the race he was reinstated into the results with a 27th place finish. For the second heat Harvey was starting towards the back of the grid, where he made a fantastic start making up 21 places

within the first two laps which saw him move up to 6th place, only to be given a drive through penalty which put him to the back of the field.

He returned to the track and made back 5 places and eventually finishing 23rd.

The second heat was not all bad luck as Tom's outstanding pace saw him break the lap record with a time of 57.69 seconds.

With these unfortunate results from the heats this put Tom into the B Final and he knew it would require a top 4 finish to qualify for the points scoring final.

He duly delivered the result with a first class drive that saw him take the race win with a controlled drive to preserve his tyres for the main final.

With a 16 point lead going into the final round Tom knew exactly what



Picture courtesy of Tom Harvey Racing Ltd.

was required for the final race of the day.

His main championship rival, Oliver Pidgley, was starting in 3rd place whilst Harvey was at the other end of the grid in 33rd; if Pidgley was to secure the race win this would require Harvey to secure a top 12 finish to become the champion.

After 4 months of close racing the championship would be decided on the last race, and it looked like all the pressure was on Harvey as he sat waiting patiently at the back of the grid for the race to get underway.

What unfolded was a display of supreme driving talent as the 15 year old kept his nerve and drove his way through the field, picking off karts in front of him at complete ease.

Once he made up 15 places into 18th position there was a small gap appearing ahead of him and this meant that it was going to be hard to catch the leading group, meanwhile at the front main rival Pidgley was battling for the lead.

Over the next few laps Tom closed the gap and made some of the finest overtaking moves to make it into a championship winning position.

In the last 4 laps Harvey displayed his supremacy over the other drivers by making his way up to third as the chequered flag was

waved. "I knew it was possible, even starting from the back - you know your quick when you break the lap record and my goal was to get to the front to prove that I'm a worthy winner," said an enthused Harvey.

With two race wins, a second and third place finish, Harvey stood proud at the top of the Championship standings with 232 points, 21 ahead of nearest rival Pidgley.

Harvey's KR Sport team were delighted with taking the Championship, stating: "Tom's been a front runner throughout the series, he's very determined and always wants to win. He has again demonstrated this weekend why he is one of the top contenders in the fiercely competitive Junior Rotax class; this sets him up well for the start of the British Championship next month" **JR**

Pencoed youth edge Tondy

THE Ospreys B League match at the Recreation Ground between Pencoed youth and Tondy was played in good spirit throughout with passive scrums from the outset.

Pencoed in general created more opportunities, but over eagerness on occasion spoiled several scoring chances, this allied to good Tondy defence.

For Pencoed, loose head prop forward Sam Burke was the outstanding player, with Adam Williams at outside half controlling matters well.

Pencoed's tries came from Jamie Pensom, Jack Griffiths, Morgan Jones, Connor Jones and Leyshon, with Pensom adding a penalty goal.

Pencoed youth are next scheduled to meet Pentyrch in a home friendly (1pm kick off)

prior to the Wales v England international, and resume league activity against Bridgend Sports at home on March 23, 2.30pm kick off.

Pencoed under-10s Pencoed under-10s were certainly at the double against their Vale opposition, and Llantwit Major, recording a brace of wins.

The under-10s comfortably defeated Cowbridge 35-5, with tries coming from Morgan Hopkins (2) Ywan Smith (2) and the prolific Sam Hayman Tucker (2).

Llantwit Major proved to be a much sterner test, Pencoed getting home 35-30.

Pencoed tries came from Jack Evans, Sam Hayman Tucker, Morgan Hopkins (2) Ywan Smith (2) and, with his first try for the club, Josh James - congratulations Josh. **TR**

Under-12s' second loss of the season

ON a deceptively cold Sunday morning, Cowbridge under-12s succumbed to their second defeat of the season, this time at home to local rivals Pencoed.

This is the first home defeat the team have suffered in two seasons and will test the team's spirit to see how they bounce back this week.

During the first ten minutes both teams tested their opponent's defence, but there seemed no way through. Both fly-halves were kicking intelligently out of defence making their opponents play rugby in their own halves.

The deadlock was broken half way through the first half when Pencoed won a scrum against the head, deep inside the Cowbridge 22. The powerful Pencoed number 8 picked up the ball at the base of the scrum and scored in the corner. 5-0 to Pencoed.

Cowbridge responded straight away. Ben Jones, the Cowbridge open side made a great turnover and set off on a powerful run down the Pencoed touchline.

Taking a few defenders with him, Jones showed deft hands by off-loading the ball from behind his back, to his back row partner Iestyn Fenn. Fenn slipped down the blind side to scamper over unopposed to level the scores. Iwan Williams made a great effort with the conversion, just to

fall short.

Pencoed replied in exactly the same way as Cowbridge did by scoring straight from the restart. A knock on from the kick off by Cowbridge gave Pencoed an attacking scrum just outside the Cowbridge 22.

An excellent training ground backs move by Pencoed resulted in their flying full back going over for the game's decisive try without a Cowbridge hand being laid on him.

In the cold conditions a few handling errors by Cowbridge allowed a few try scoring opportunities to go begging. There were few clear cut chances in the second half for either team, but

with the game drawing to a close Cowbridge attacked from deep inside their own 22.

Some good passing by the backs put Ruben Williams clear, who set off on a powerful run, fending off a number of Pencoed defenders.

However, to Pencoed's credit, even after Williams had beaten several players, their defence was still not beaten and Williams was bundled into touch.

Overall a tough loss for the boys, but with a number of boys back from illness and injury next week they need to demonstrate a good team spirit, and get back to winning ways. **GJ**

Under-10s in derby extravaganza

THE bitter cold on Sunday morning was not enough to cool the excitement of spectators at a rugby derby extravaganza, as Cowbridge under-10s fielded two teams against visiting sides Pencoed and Llantwit Major.

The morning commenced with the two Cowbridge sides taking on the two Llantwit Major sides.

Cowbridge A team got off to a flying start with Iwan Bartle-Thomas and Lloyd Bennett quickly securing two tries. A Llantwit try in response did not deter the home side and Lloyd Bennett's legendary hard hitting performance earned him a second try, soon to be followed by an Oliver Jarman interception

score. Halftime saw Llantwit Major dig deep and pull back with two tries but Cowbridge proved their resilience with well structured play leading to two further tries from Iwan Davies and Jack Reilly. Final score Cowbridge A 7, Llantwit Major A 3.

Cowbridge B played an excellent team game against Llantwit Major B, arguably delivering their most solid performance this season through outstanding support play.

Hard graft and line breaking forward play from iron man Jay Downes opened up successive scoring opportunities for his team mates. Downes scored three tries, with flying wing James Gilvear scoring five tries, Harri Howkins scoring two tries, and Harry Crane and Elisedd Greenwood scoring a try each. Final score Cowbridge

B 14, Llantwit Major B 3.

The other visiting side, Pencoed, were unable to field two full sides but their strength on the pitch was not to be underestimated.

Cowbridge A, bruised and weary from their contest against Llantwit, struggled to break a strong Pencoed defence. Excellent play from both sides resulted in a tough and exciting first half that delivered only one try for the visitors.

Halftime saw a wholesale change of players for Cowbridge as the B squad took the field for the second half. A rested B team took their chances resulting in a Jay Downes try, but Pencoed kept the upper hand as they responded with two further tries to close the play. Final score Cowbridge 1, Pencoed 3.

As Cowbridge under-10s pre-

pare for their forthcoming spring tour, entering successive tournaments at Esher and London Irish Rugby Clubs in April, the weekend's performances were evidence of the hard work being put in by both players and coaches.

The coaches, players and parents would like to thank Sinclair Motors for their sponsorship donation towards the tour.

Cowbridge A: Charlie Locke, Jake Williams, Lloyd Bennett, Jack Riley, Oliver Jarman, Iwan Davies, Aled Letch, Rhys Williams, Iwan Bartle-Thomas, Harry Whittaker, David Harris, McKinley Parsons.

Cowbridge B: Jay Downes, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Tom Pugh, Elisedd Greenwood, Ellis Howells, Sam Coates, Harry Crane, Robbie Hawkins, Harri Howkins, Joe Marshman. **WL**

Cup run comes to an end for the under-16s'

L LANTWIT MAJOR under-16B's cup run came to an end on Saturday, losing to Cowbridge 5-2 at St Brides.

Tom Rawlings again added to his impressive goal scoring record with a goal, Dan Jennings adding the other, however the focus will now be on continuing the good form in the league and aim for a top four finish.

Llantwit Major under-16A completed impressive back to back wins, defeating top of the league Cogan 2-1 with goals from Gabe Oram and Richard Stevens followed by a 4-0 victory over current cup holders Penarth, which takes Phil and Russell's boys into the quarter final.

First half goals from Will Perkins, Richard Stevens and Kirstian Jones (2) sealed the victory while the back four

of Richard Dangerfield, Ben Jones, Matt Cassidy and Harvey Stockford were instrumental in keeping a clean sheet

Llantwit Major under-13A defeated Cowbridge 4-0 in the cup with a superb team performance, battling hard from the start.

The tie was all but won by half time with Llantwit going in 3-0 up thanks to goals from Morgan Gore, Lewis Brown and a super effort from Liam Butcher.

A tireless performance in the second half ensured Llantwit kept a clean sheet and Moses Gee added a fourth to ensure a passage into the semi finals.

Joe Baker produced another good performance in goal and Luke Beattie walked off with the man of the match award for an outstanding performance in midfield. **SC**

Local runner goes around the world!

PHILIP MANFIELD from Barry, will be joining over 1,000 runners from the Mr Men and Little Miss team at this year's Virgin London Marathon on Sunday, April 21 as they attempt to run over 25,000 miles, the earth's circumference, to mark the 25th anniversary for Children with Cancer UK.

To help Children with Cancer UK raise essential funds to continue the fight against childhood cancer, visit www.childrenwithcancer.org.uk for more information.

THIS READY-TO-RUN BERLINGO EVEN HAS ROOM FOR A COOKER!

A FRIEND needs a broken cooker replacing immediately; I suggest repairing it – but he says it costs more to repair than to replace.

He is frustrated that only the four hobs on his Beko work and that an element for the grill and oven needs replacing at considerable expense, which isn't justifiable.

"Older cookers don't have built in redundancy," my cynical friend claims, "like all new appliances, which are designed to fail so that the manufacturer and their supply chain continue to make money after the product has been sold."

Now, normally, I wouldn't be able to help him because firstly I am no electrician and secondly, even with the best will in the world, a cooker will

MOTORING by TIM SAUNDERS

not fit in the back of my old Ford Fiesta.

But this week, I'm driving a shiny new Citroën Berlingo van with double doors at the rear and a helpful sliding door at the side.

So I suggest that we pop down to this reconditioning specialist I know not far from where I live and see what they can offer.

He's delighted, because he was fretting about how he would transport a cooker if he found one.

And he's even happier when he learns that there are three seats in the Berlingo cabin, so his girlfriend can come along, too.

Inside, the cabin is comfortable and, just like the exterior, it is reminiscent of the Peugeot Partner van, that I tested a few weeks ago.

Air conditioning, electric windows and a decent stereo all come as standard and the five-speed manual gearbox is easy to use.

The diesel engine is responsive and economical.

Anyway, they find a cooker for under £100 and we take it away there and then. It's fairly easy for us to manoeuvre it into the back of the van, showing it through the double doors on its back, and then my friend opens the sliding door and jumps through to pull it into the rear.

There's a step inside the sliding door that makes getting into it fairly easy.

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ABOVE:
The Citroën Berlingo 1.6HDi diesel went down very well with motoring correspondent Tim Saunders.

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GEM sport

Can Wales finally pack up their troubles and smile in Murrayfield?

IT is interesting to reflect that when the Wales team line up against Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday, it will be the 118th clash in a Celtic rivalry that began all of 130 years ago, on January 8, 1883 at Raeburn Place.

That inaugural Four Nations match saw Scotland triumph, in the scoring system of the time, by three goals to one, and it spearheaded early years of success for the men from the north, before the rugby tide turned with the meteoric arrival of Wales' first 'golden age' at the turn of the century.

Of the 117 games played since, Wales have won 66, to Scotland's 48, with three matches drawn – marked by some notable, entertaining encounters over the years and wonderful moments that stick in the memory.

Gareth Edwards' lung-bursting race to score in the corner at Cardiff Arms Park in 1972, and Phil Bennett's weaving run to touch down under the posts at Murrayfield in 1977, are just two memorable incidents that can still raise the pulse rate when recalled in nostalgic TV replays.

Their exploits, of course, were firmly rooted in another exuberant Welsh 'golden age' in the 70s, when confidence was high and unshakable – while today's talented young team are only now emerging from a run of morale-sapping defeats, buoyed by two grimly close-fought victories over France and Italy. It will take time to fully regain the confidence and belief that produced three Grand Slams since 2005 – but time is in short supply, with the Scots lying in wait on Saturday, also with two Six Nations wins under their interim head coach Scott Johnson, including the shock 12-8 victory over Ireland.

Scotland have won 32 of their 58 home matches against Wales, and are also a team slowly growing in confidence

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

after recent upheavals.

Johnson knows the Welsh camp well from his time as assistant team coach and they will have targeted this fixture as one that can continue their mini revival.

However, Wales can draw encouragement from the fact that in 11 meetings over the last 10 years, Scotland have prevailed only twice – 30-22 in 2003 (a defeat avenged by Wales in a 23-9 World Cup warm-up just a few months later), and 21-9 in 2007.

Both Scottish victories were at Murrayfield, but against that, Wales have won three of the five matches in Scotland over those 10 years, including a record-breaking 24-point margin between the two sides in the 46-22 Grand Slam triumph in 2005.

The Scots also helped Wales towards last year's Grand Slam in Cardiff, when Leigh Halfpenny scored 22 points in his team's 27-13 win, with a brace of tries and pin-point accuracy with the boot, after taking over the place kicking duties.

So the stage seems set for another lively encounter in the Scottish capital, traditionally one of the most popular Six Nations stop-overs for the travelling army of Welsh rugby followers.

Much will depend on the pack's ability to generate the awesome scrum power that overwhelmed Italy (who are expected to be elbowed aside at an expectant Twickenham this weekend), and thus lay the basis for a climactic Six Nations showdown with Wales in Cardiff the following week.

One man who will be taking more than a passing interest

in the key front row battles is legendary All Black hooker and captain, Sean Fitzpatrick, who was the guest speaker at a charity dinner in the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, last Thursday.

Now domiciled in England and a highly-respected media pundit, he gave some penetrating insights into New Zealand's winning mentality, and just what it means to pull on the revered jersey, summed up in the phrase – "the culture has never changed, once an All Black, always an All Black!"

He is clearly impressed by the current English set-up, saying: "It's quite scary. They are physically bigger and stronger than the rest of the world."

Wales will soon have a chance to make a statement of their own in that regard – and hopefully prove that size isn't everything.

First though, they must concentrate on the immediate task in hand at Edinburgh this Saturday.

TEAM: Leigh Halfpenny (Blues); Alex Cuthbert (Blues), Jonathan Davies (Scarlets), Jamie Roberts (Blues), George North (Scarlets), Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Mike Phillips (Bayonne); Paul James (Bath), Richard Hibbard (Ospreys), Adam Jones (Ospreys), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Ian Evans (Ospreys), Ryan Jones (capt, Ospreys), Sam Warburton (Blues), Toby Faletau (Dragons).

Replacements: Ken Owens (Scarlets), Scott Andrews (Blues), Ryan Bevington (Ospreys), Andrew Coombs (Dragons), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Lloyd Williams (Blues), James Hook (Perpignan), Scott Williams (Scarlets).

Sweet revenge for Bridgend Athletic over the Wanderers

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC exacted full revenge for an earlier season 15-10 home defeat at the hands of Glamorgan Wanderers.

The Wanderers had the same 15 point score line, but this time the Athletic ran in five tries in a bonus point 39-15 victory; the win moved the Athletic into joint 8th place with Blackwood in

the table and left the Wanderers staring down the barrel at relegation.

They are 15 points behind the Athletic and with Whitland seemingly doomed and Pontypool ring fenced against relegation, it has given the Athletic, a real lifeline

with Bonymaen and Beddau also below them. The Wanderers made their intentions of spreading the ball wide clear from the off and only determined Athletic

tackling and their own errors prevented them getting on the score sheet.

Having weathered this early storm the Athletic took the lead. The Wanderers overthrew a line out on half way and No 8 Sean Derrick pounced on the loose ball and ran 45 metres through the Wanderers defence to become the leading Athletic try scorer this season with four tries. Outside half Steve Lewis converted.

A second try soon followed. The ball was won at a ruck on the Wanderers' 10 metre line and was moved swiftly via half backs Aled Thomas and Lewis to Stuart Morris, who put co-centre Michael Hathaway into space to race clear under the posts and join Derrick at the top of the Athletic try scorers; Lewis again converted.

A third try soon followed. The ball squirted out of a Wanderers' scrum for the alert Athletic flanker Ben Thomas to pounce and cross wide out. This put the Athletic 19-0 ahead in only 15 minutes.

The Athletic then took their foot off the pedal and the Wanderers came



Sean Derrick on his way to opening the scoring for Bridgend Athletic.

PICTURE BY KERRY FOTHERGILL

back into the game. Outside half Ianto Griffiths kicked a penalty before full back Mike Stephens crossed for a home try to leave the score 19-8 to the Athletic at half time.

The Wanderers started the second half in the same determined manner as the first, though a Steven Lewis penalty extended the lead to 22-8. The Wanderers hit

back with a try under the posts from centre Charlie Johnson, which Griffiths converted and this brought the Wanderers within a score of the Athletic at 22-15.

However, this galvanized the Athletic back into action. They started playing a driving game, pinning the home side inside their own 22.

From one such drive, lock Griff Davies forced his way over for the bonus point try. Lewis converted from wide out to extend the lead to 29-15, and further extended the lead to 32-15 with his second penalty.

The fifth try came from another drive when the ball was popped up to flanker Dan Apsee who had a head of steam to force his way over under the posts. Lewis converted for a match haul of 14 points to take his season's tally to 146 points. The Athletic used all five replacements in a good team effort.

The Athletic's next game is a local derby at home against Llanharan at the South Wales Police Ground on Friday, March 15, kick off 7.15pm.

AB

Mules go out in plate competition

IN a well-contested plate game Kenfig Hill were narrowly beaten at Ystrad Rhondda 9-3.

The Mules entered this match knowing that they faced a major challenge as the hosts had not lost at home this season.

Right from the start of the game, it was clear that the tackle area was going to be closely contested, with both defences showing up very well.

For the hosts, their full-back showed some fine kicking ability with a lot of long raking kicks putting pressure on the Mules to be accurate in their responses.

Ystrad Rhondda struck first with a penalty from their outside half, before the mules responded through Nicky Giles after some good attacking play from Kenfig, which could have resulted in seven points rather than three; Ystrad then kicked another three.

During the first half Ystrad had two players sin binned. However the Mules were unable to take advantage and get any further points on the



Jason Davies races away. PICTURE BY PETER GILLING

board, with the final decision or pass just going astray.

Right at the end of the half, the Ystrad 10 intercepted and looked as if he would extend the lead but a tremendous chase by lock Ben Jones ensured it was all to play for going into the second half.

The second half was more of the same; the Mules looked like they were causing concern at set piece and in defence. Ystrad missed numerous kicks at goal after some dubious decisions from the ref, but they did successfully convert one opportunity.

However this was to be the half where the Mules looked superb but just came up short, with Rhodri Clarke and Lewis David both going close, leaving Ystrad to hang on.

The coaching team couldn't have asked for more commitment from their squad, with the scrum, line out, breakdown and backline defence going particularly well. Every player put in a full shift, but for note, Darryl Harvey, Steve Gillard, Ben Jones and Rhodri Clarke were right on top of their game

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